MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

10 AUGUST 1981

Fahd Peace Plan

Fahd Interview--Riyadh radio broadcast an announcer-read interview with Sauid Deputy Prime Minister Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz in which he discussed his country's role in bringing about a cease-fire in Lebanon. He explained that when the situation began to deteriorate, Saudi Arabia acted on various levels primarily in order to protect the lives of innocent civilians. He added, however, that the nation's actions were also connected to its belief that any aggression against the Arab country is an attack on itself. The deputy prime minister asserted that while the cease-fire was dictated by certain humanitarian considerations, it does not mean that the Palestinian people should halt their march toward gaining their rights.

Turning to U.S. Middle East policy, Fahd noted that Saudi Arabia continues to be dissatisfied with overall U.S. policy in the area especially as it concerns the Palestinian problem. He said he could not understand why successive U.S. administrations continue to expose their relations with the Arab nation, and thus their interests, to danger by supporting Israel politically, financially and militarily while the latter continues to occupy the whole of Palestine. He affirmed that his government hopes that the Reagan administration will recognize the uselessness of the Camp David agreements and will initiate a drastic change in U.S. policy leading to Israel's withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. He predicted that any other policy will only lead to more unrest, killing and destruction. Admitting that Saudi Arabia fears that time will pass without the current U.S. administration embarking on a new, serious move that is drastically different from Camp David, Fahd asserted that the time has come for the U.S. Government to be less biased toward Israel and more equitable toward the Arabs.

In response to a question as to how a just settlement could be reached, Fahd listed eight guidelines: Israel should withdraw from all Arab territory occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem; Israeli settlements built on Arab land after 1967 should be dismantled; freedom of worship for all religions should be guaranteed; the right of the Palestinian people to return to their home should be affirmed and compensation for those who do not wish to return guaranteed; the West Bank and the Gaza Strip should have a transitional period under UN auspices for a period not exceeding several months; an independent Palestinian state should be established with Jerusalem as its capital; all states in the region should be able to live in peace; the United Nations or UN member states should guarantee the implementation of these principles. Fahd also called for an end to unlimited U.S. support for Israel, an end to Israeli arrogance and the recognition that the Palestinian issue is the basic factor in the Middle East equation. Questioned on the U.S. sale of AWACS aircraft to Saudi Arabia, Fahd said the Saudi Government is astonished at the uproar that has accompanied the deal and attributed it to the pressure of the Israeli lobby in Washington.

Reaction to Proposals--According to Jerusalem radio, the "highest level of policymakers" in Jerusalem believe that the Saudi peace plan contradicts the Camp David accords. The 9 August HA'ARETZ reported that it was impossible to get a reaction directly from Prime Minister Menahem Begin because he is currently on vacation and his aides do not want to bother him. Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told the 9 August YEDI'OT AHARONOT that he rejects the Saudi plan, claiming that neither it nor its implied recognition of Israel constitutes anything new. Jerusalem radio also quoted Israeli Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres as asserting that only Saudi Arabia's willingness to reach peace constitutes a new element. According to the radio, Peres emphasized that progress can be made only through direct negotiations without preconditions. Cairo radio brocast President Anwar as-Sadat's remarks to NBC's "Meet the Press" that he sees nothing new in Fahd's peace proposals. He asserted that Fahd's proposals are the same as those issued by the Baghdad conference held after the signing of the Camp David accords.

Radio Monte Carlo reported that a spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine criticized Fahd's proposals, claiming that they represent direct recognition of Israel and call on the PLO to deviate from the revolution's basic course. On the other hand, the radio cited Fatah official Khalil al-Wazir as describing the proposals as "positive." He said it is very important to hear a high-ranking Arab voice saying "no" to the U.S. Government and rejecting U.S. policy in the Middle East.

Lebanese Crisis

Military Situation--In a statement carried by Voice of Hope radio, a free Lebanon army spokesman claimed that on 8 August "saboteurs" opened machinegun and RPG fire on a Christian position west of Marj 'Uyun. According to Jersalem radio, the UNIFIL spokesman disclaimed any knowledge of the incident. The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported that Israeli planes overflew southern Lebanon and Beirut on 9 August, drawing antiaircraft fire. The radio also claimed that the Israelis are reinforcing their positions in the border strip in preparation for a possible operation against the eastern sector and the south. Meanwhile, IDF radio, citing authoritative military sources, reported that the Palestinians are taking advantage of the cease-fire to improve their positions and fortifications in southern Lebanon. The radio said they have brought artillery, Katyusha launchers and mortars into the area as well as ammunition, light arms and other materiel. Beirut radio reported that following a new cease-fire on 7 August, life in Tripoli returned to normal over the weekend despite occasional attempts to disrupt the calm. The radio said efforts to stabilize the cease-fire and to remove armed men from the streets were underway. According to Voice of Lebanon radio, clashes resumed on 9 August, with shelling in the commercial and residential areas.

Al-Wazzan Visit to Damascus--Damascus radio reported that Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan paid a 1-day visit to Damascus on 9 August for talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. According to Damascus television, the talks centered on the efforts being made to promote national reconciliation in Lebanon, the latest developments in the region and bilateral cooperation. In a predeparture statement cited by Damascus radio, Al-Wazzan said he was satisfied with the talks, adding that the Syrian officials demonstrated their readiness to exert all efforts to help Lebanon extricate itself from its present difficulties.

PLO

The Voice of Palestine reported that head of the PLO information office in Washington Hatim al-Husayni has rejected Egyptian President as-Sadat's appeal to the PLO to recognize Israel. He also asserted that the United States should recognize and negotiate with the PLO without any preconditions.

Iran

Extradition Dispute--Tehran radio reported that in a 7 August Friday prayer sermon in Qom, Ayatollah Meshkini warned French President Francois Mitterrand that if France does not return former President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr and Mojahedin-e Khalq leader Mas'ud Rajavi, Iran will stand up to France just as it did to the United States. AFP, citing official French sources, stated that as of 7 August the French Foreign Ministry had still not received formal notification of Iran's request for extradition of Bani-Sadr. According to AFP, the sources added that the extradition socuments had been handed over to the French ambassador in Tehran and were to have been sent to Paris via diplomatic courier but that the diplomatic pouch had been held up by Iranian authorities.

Bani-Sadr Reply to Bakhtiar--The 7 August LE MONDE carried excerpts of a letter sent by Bani-Sadr to that paper in reply to statements made to LE MONDE by former Iranian Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiar on 31 July. Bani-Sadr wrote that Bakhtiar had compromised himself through dealings with the United States and that he had played a large part in the campaign against pro-Mossadeq intellectuals. He also wrote that Iran's independence cannot be guaranteed without Islam, adding that Islam is the central factor in Iranian cultural identity.

Internal Situation--Tehran radio reported that on the morning of 8 August Ahmed Faqihi, religious judge for the towns of Neyriz, Estahbanat, Darab and Fasa, was shot to death by two motorcyclists. Tehran radio reported that in a preagenda speech at the 9 August Majlis session, 'Ali Ashgar Baghani, deputy for Sabzevar, complained about the Interior Ministry and the police, asking why cities are not patrolled and why the homes of deputies and officials are not guarded. Tehran radio on 7 August carried an announcer-read document issued by acting Interior Minister Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani in which he accepted the resignation of Gendarmerie Commander Col Hasan 'Ali Foruzan. Tehran radio, citing PARS, reported on 7 August that 12 members and supporters of the Mojahedin-e Khalq were arrested and handed over to the Borujerd Islamic Revolution Court. A statement issued on 9 August by the Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and carried by Tehran radio said that more than 30 Mojahedin-e Khalq team houses throughout Tehran were uncovered and that between 4 and 9 August 23 members and officials of the military branch and 1 active member of the political branch of the Mojahedin-e Khalq had been arrested. The statement also said that Hoseyn Navvab-Safavi, a member and leader of Bani-Sadr's coordination bureau, was arrested. AFP, citing the 8 August JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, reported that eight opponents of the Iranian Government were executed by firing squad. The newspaper said 6 of the 8 were executed on 7 August, bringing the total executed that day to 44. It added that among those executed were Mojahedin-e Khalq, Peykar and Kurdish Komeleh group members. Shiraz radio also reported the sentencing and execution on 7 August of a Mojahedin-e Khalq member.

Iraq-Iran Conflict

Tehran radio reported the 6 August arrival in Tehran of the nonaligned good offices committee. The radio said that the committee members, representing India, Cuba, Zambia and the PLO, were received by Iranian Foreign Minister Hoseyn Musavi and President Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i. The radio also cited the foreign minister as saying that while Iran is prepared to consider various proposals put forward by mediation delegations, their visits will have no effect on either the outcome of the war or the will of the Iranian nation in fighting Iraq. In remarks to the committee reported by the radio, President Raja'i characterized past good offices visits as not having been very useful in clarifying the Iraqi position or that of Iran, the victim of Iraqi aggression. In sum, said Raja'i, Iran regards the efforts of the committee as "fruitless." INA reported the arrival of the committee in Baghdad on 8 August and its meetings with Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi and President Saddam Husayn on 8 and 9 August. According to INA, the committee departed on 9 August.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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'ARAFAT SPEAKS TO 8 AUG RALLY ON ISRAELI PLANS

NC090930 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 9 Aug 81

[Excerpts] In a rally held in Damascus yesterday on the second anniversary of the martyrdom of struggler Zuhayr Muhsin, Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said that the joint forces have decided to retaliate against any Israeli aggression. He warned that Begin--as military preparations indicate--is paving the way for an aggression before his departure for Washington.

Brother Abu 'Ammar said: On this occasion, we announce that we will continue to challenge the continuing U.S. conspiracy and its stooges, concocted under the slogan of Israel's right to the so-called hot pursuit of Palestinians. This slogan, which was raised by Richard Allen, Reagan's adviser for national security, means that the White House agrees with Begin's carrying out this plan during the Israeli elections using all land, air and sea weapons. The aim of the U.S. plan was to strike at the head, as indicated in the Israeli raid on Beirut, and then to dismember [the Palestinian resistance] to strike at the bridges and passes, to prevent military supply and then to destroy the infrastructure of the joint forces. The U.S.-Israeli plan was also aimed at creating a gap in Palestinian-Lebanese relations and inciting the Lebanese people, following the heavy losses among civilians as a result of the Zionist aggression. Abu 'Ammar added: Thus, I bow in esteem to the heroic Lebanese people.

Abu 'Ammar pointed out that after the bestial Zionist raid on the Al-Fakihani area, a Lebanese citizen said to him: I emerged leaving 14 people under the rubble. They are a sacrifice for the revolution. I ask only one thing of you: Do not to kneel before Israel. Abu 'Ammar then said: I told him that the decision of the military and political commands is not only to remain steadfast but to retaliate twice for every strike. If the Camp David trio wants to bring the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples to their knees and send warnings to Syria, our decision is to retaliate twice for every strike. At this point, our Arab nation must remember that Beirut is the second Arab capital to be struck in less than 1 month. I have a right to ask my nation: Where next? Abu 'Ammar asked if the operation is over and said: Of course not. The Israeli Air Force has ended training exercises in occupied northern Palestine and Maj Gen Golani today said that he has concluded training exercises in the areas of Marj 'Uyun, Al-Khiyam and Metulla. This is not a coincidence, particularly since Begin has said more than once that the cease-fire is temporary. This means that they are preparing for a new operation.

PLO OFFICIAL IN U.S. REJECTS RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL

NC091535 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1445 GMT 9 Aug 81

[Text] Head of the PLO Information Office in Washington Hatim al-Husayni yesterday rejected any possibility of the PLO recognizing Israel. He stated that President as-Sadat's call to the United States to recognize the PLO was simply a gesture intended as a fob [as heard] to Egyptian and Arab peoples and restated the PLO position that the United States should recognize and negotiate with the organization without any pre-conditions, adding: You cannot ask a people subject to Israeli occupation to recognize Israel.

VOP COMMENTARY ON AS-SADAT, REAGAN DISCUSSIONS

NC071250 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Aug 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The statements made by Alexander Haig indicate that the United States continues to adhere to the old factors and the old framework constituting the U.S. plan of action in the area under the title "the establishment of peace," whereas in essence it is a plan which aims at keeping many of the local forces in the area under the U.S. leadership, in order to impose full U.S. control and change the course of the struggle from a just struggle waged by the Arab peoples against Zionism and U.S. imperialism to a faked struggle with the Soviet Union.

The United States has been adamant in refusing to recognize the Palestinian people's national rights and the PLO. It went to the extent of describing the Arab forces who reject the Camp David plot as a minority which the United States will not heed in the peace process. The United States has thus dealt a blow to the 140 million Arabs and all their governments which reject the Camp David accords. How can any Arab respect a U.S. policy which considers the As-Sadat regime the effective majority while considering all the Arabs as a mere marginal minority without influence.

As-Sadat went to Washington when he was on the brink of bankruptcy. He was unable to offer anything new to Washington other than more pledges to give military facilities on the land of Egypt and Sudan. It appears that the Americans knew precisely the size of As-Sadat at this stage. Therefore, they have given him nothing but a lot of words which he considers important. In the meantime, the Americans have said that Begin will say the decisive word. In any case, nothing new was expected to emerge from these discussions, because the Americans insist on completing their game in the area. As-Sadat needs to remain an American agent in the area and Camp David has become the only haven for As-Sadat to safeguard his regime and his remaining role in the area. However, this does not cancel the growing strong facts in opposition to this conspiratorial trend. The most important fact is the strength of the Palestinian people and their revolution, under the PLO leadership. This strength is in alliance with the Arab brothers who reject the Camp David plot and with the Soviet friends, and it has the closest relations with most of the world states and peoples. This strength proves again that it is impossible for the United States and Israel or the Arabs and non-Arabs who rotate in the orbit of the United States to disregard the Palestinian figure and Palestinian rights.

VOP SCORES ABC PROGRAM ON PALESTINIAN TERRORISM

NC080952 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 8 Aug 81

[Text] In line with its hostile policy toward the Palestinian people, the U.S. ABC television network has featured a program offending the Palestinian people. Participating in the program were officials from present and former U.S. administrations.

According to the program, the Palestinian people have adopted terrorism to achieve their goals. As background information, the program shows alleged atrocities that the Palestinians carried out in Munich, Vienna and the Lod airport. ABC says that any solution to stop Palestinian actions must be based on the military option, to combat what it portrayed as Palestinian terrorism.

Commenting on this feature program by this U.S. television network, which is linked with the Zionist enemy, Brother Sa'id 'Urayqat, the executive president of the Palestinian congress [last word in English] said: They want to link an independent Palestinian state with terrorism.

Brother Hatim al-Husayni, who also commented on the program, said: The ABC program is part of the rancorous U.S. campaign to conceal Zionist terrorism.

Dr Kluvis Maqsud [Arab League representative to the United Nations] protested to the ABC director, saying that this program is a new attempt to offend the PLO, which is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

It is worth noting that the ABC television network has for a long time been in the habit of searching for anything that offends the Arabs and the Palestinian people, as well as devoting its power to offend them.

PLO DELEGATION REPORTEDLY ARRIVES IN MOSCOW 8 AUG

JN080912 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 8 Aug 81

[Text] Moscow, 8 Aug (INA)--A Palestinian delegation led by Khalid al-Fahum, speaker of the Palestine National Council, arrived here today on a 2-week visit at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. Al-Fahum will meet with officials at the Presidium and at the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with Asian and African Countries, as well as other Soviet officials. His talks will deal with the dimensions of the serious developments in the Arab region resulting from the escalation of Zionist aggression. They will also deal with ways to intensify support for the Palestinian cause in addition to Soviet-Palestinian relations and ways to strengthen them.

VOP REPORTS PROGRESS OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRIPOLI

NC091008 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 9 Aug 81

[Text] Northern Lebanon--The joint committee made up of the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese National Movement and the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] is continuing its moves to put an end once and for all to the painful events in Tripoli. The committee has held several meetings with the parties involved in the clashes and agreed to hand over the responsibility of security in Ba'l Muhsin to the ADF. The committee members have also met with the official in charge of the Popular Resistance in the north, Khalil 'Akkawi, and proposed to him that two ADF officers be attached to the resistance forces protecting the At-Tabbanah area.

The higher security command disseminated a statement last night that said that the committee has succeeded in overcoming the incident that occurred when an ADF patrol opened fire on two members of the Arab democratic party who did not obey orders not to wander about with their arms. The committee contained the repercussions of the incident on the spot in the Zahr al-Mughr area. The statement further said that until 2100 [1900 GMT] yesterday, the cease-fire was holding completely in the city and that no incident was recorded. The committee members moved to the areas of At-Tabbanah, the higher Ba'l Muhsin and Az-Zahiriyah and directly supervised the implementation of the specific security arrangements.

Brother Abu al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid], Fatah Central Committee member and representative of the Palestinian revolution in the joint committee, made a statement in which he said: Despite the feverish attempts made every now and then to torpedo the security situation in Tripoli, the higher security committee has succeeded in stabilizing the cease-fire. Throughout yesterday it directly supervised the elimination of armed manifestations, the withdrawal of gunmen from the streets and the closure of the Palestinian offices outside the camps in implementation of the first articles in the decisions of the joint command with the goal of finding a final solution to the security situation in the city.

Brother Abu al-Hawl added: We are confident that when we succeed in ensuring a climate of reassurance and security for the sons of Tripoli we will be preparing a suitable atmosphere for the struggling Arab Tripoli to participate, as usual, in confronting the Zionist-U.S. plot against Lebanon and the area.

BAHRAIN

CABINET SUPPORTS SAUDI PRINCE'S PEACE PROGRAM

JN091331 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Aug 81

[Excerpt] Manama, 9 Aug--At its ordinary session today under Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the Bahraini Cabinet discussed the peace program announced by His Highness Crown Prince Fahd, Saudi deputy prime minister, the day before yesterday.

Jawad Salim al-'Arid, Bahraini minister of state for Cabinet affairs, stated that the Cabinet believes that this program is the best solution for the establishment of the foundations and framework for a real peace in the Middle East because it contains positive and just principles, conditions and proposals that will safeguard basic legitimate rights. Al-'Arid added that the Cabinet praised this program, which seeks to prepare the atmosphere for reaching a comprehensive settlement of this problem.

LIBYA'S AT-TURAYKI MEETS AMIR, FOREIGN MINISTER

JN081120 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 Aug 81

[Text] Manama, 8 Aug (GNA)--Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah received here today Dr 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, Libyan secretary of foreign affairs, who is visiting Bahrain as part of a tour of several of the region's states. The meeting was attended by Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah and Libyan Ambassador to Bahrain Mr Ramadan Muhammad al-Rubi.

In a statement following the meeting, Dr at-Turayki said he had conveyed a message from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to his highness the Bahraini amir on the latest Arab and international developments. He added that his talks with his highness the Bahraini amir were successful and that viewpoints were identical. He also expressed his country's appreciation for Bahrain's role vis-a-vis Arab and Islamic issues.

KUWAIT

FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN REJECTS NEUTRON BOMB

LD091520 Kuwait KUNA in English 1145 GMT 9 Aug 81

[Text] Kuwait, 9 Aug (KUNA)--Kuwait Sunday rejected production of devastating weapons by the big powers which could be used in annihilation of the human race. The rejection was voiced by a Foreign Ministry spokesman in reply to a question by the American CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR newspaper on Kuwait's stand regarding a (?decision) by President Ronald Reagan to produce the neutron bomb.

The spokesman said that Kuwait, which opposes development of deadly weapons for the destruction of humanity, strongly believes that settlement of global and international problems could be achieved only through understanding and peaceful negotiations. As such, the spokesman said, Kuwait regrets the super powers' decisions to develop weapons for destruction of man and his civilization and for sabotaging progress in all fields.

He added that huge amount spent on production of these weapons could be better used for improving the lot of peoples suffering from starvation, disease and backwardness.

FATAH OFFICIALS ARRIVE, MAKE STATEMENT 8 AUG

LD081902 Kuwait KUNA in English 1500 GMT 8 Aug 81

[Text] Kuwait, 8 Aug (KUNA)--Two high-ranking officials of the mainstream "Al-Fatah" Palestinian commando group arrived here this afternoon in the first leg of a tour in the Arab Gulf countries to inform their governments on developments in Lebanon in the aftermath of the last month's Israeli raids against south Lebanon. The officials are Khalili al-Qazir, code-named Abu Jihad, deputy commander of (As-Sa'i Qah) forces the military wing of Al-Fatah, and Hani al-Hassan, the political adviser of the PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

They are expected to be received tomorrow by H.H. the amir and other top government officials.

Al-Wazir told reporters on arrival at the airport that the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples in south Lebanon were the target for the most savage Zionist aggressions. He added that he would clarify to the Arab leaders and masses nature of the persisting Israeli threats.

The Palestinian leader said that the Israeli menaces continue to persist despite the present state of tranquility and added that the Palestinians expect other forms of aggressions which might take of the shape of political maneuvers and blackmailing to achieve concessions but if they fail they could invite military action.

On the purpose of his visit to Kuwait and the region, Abu Jihad said it was aimed at emphasizing determination of the Palestinian revolution to reject all forms of American solutions for the Middle East crisis.

He described criticism of the policy of the Washington administration yesterday by the Saudi Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister Prince Fahd as "very important and positive." He was hopeful that the American policy would be confronted by an overall Arab rejection to force the U.S. administration to stop its absolute support for the Israeli aggression.

He predicted that Israel would launch more military adventures after the formation of the Menahem Begin's government which groups fanatic and radical groups advocating the policy of "iron fist" in dealing with the Palestinian revolution.

KUWAIT TO ATTEND OPEC CONFERENCE ON OIL GLUT

LD081352 Kuwait KUNA in English 1136 GMT 8 Aug 81

[Text] Kuwait, 8 Aug (KUNA)--The Minister of Oil Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah said Saturday that Kuwait has agreed in principle to attend an extraordinary OPEC ministerial conference to discuss the present glut in the world oil market. But the minister gave no other details about the conference called for by Algeria.

In the meantime, authoritative sources told KUNA that extensive contacts were still underway between the 13 members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to fix the date and venue of the proposed conference. But these sources said the conference would be probably held in mid-September either at the OPEC headquarters in Vienna or in Geneva.

The call for the conference followed complaints by several OPEC members which said the present surplus estimated at three million barrels per day has caused them many hardships in marketing their oil such as forcing them to reduce their productive by large percentages.

The current surplus was due to many factors among which is the Saudi decision to raise the ceiling of production to over ten million barrels per day. Factors like the economic recession and measures adopted by the industrial countries to save energy also helped cause the present surplus. Saudi Arabia said it deliberately planned to cause the glut to force its OPEC partners to reduce prices and to abide by a united pricing system.

QATAR

DEPUTY AMIR RECEIVES LIBYA'S AT-TURAYKI, MESSAGE

JN091836 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1810 GMT 9 Aug 81

[Text] Doha, 9 Aug (GNA)--His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari deputy amir and heir apparent, has received a letter addressed to the amir of Qatar from Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi dealing with bilateral relations between the two countries, the means of promoting these relations and Arab and world issues of joint interest. The letter was delivered by 'Ali Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, Libyan secretary of foreign affairs, when he was received by Shaykh Hamad this evening. At-Turayki arrived in Doha earlier in the day from Manama on a visit to Qatar within his current tour of the region's states.

SAUDI ARABIA

PRINCE FAHD INTERVIEW ON LEBANON PEACE PROGRAM

LD072355 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Aug 81

[Interview with Saudi Arabia's Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, heir apparent and deputy prime minister of the Council of Ministers; in Jidda, date not given--questions and answers read by announcer]

[Text] Question: News agencies have extensively reported that Saudi Arabia played a part in bringing about the cease-fire in Lebanon? What is the truth about the Saudi role?

Answer: I will not be revealing a secret if I say that Saudi Arabia played a part in the cease-fire which came into effect in Lebanon recently. Ever since the situation begin to dangerously deteriorate following the savage Israeli raid on Beirut, the king directed that there was a need to make moves on various levels in order to protect the lives of innocent civilians--old people, women and children who were falling victim to the Israeli military machine, which deliberately bombed, killing and wreaking destruction both in Beirut and in southern Lebanon.

This was the principal reason why his majesty the king and Saudi Arabia made a move. In addition, we believe that any aggression on an Arab country is an attack on us. On the orders of his majesty the king, we contacted Washington and expressed our extreme concern at the deterioration in the situation. We asked Washington to put pressure on Israel before the situation exploded. The cease-fire agreement was concluded after intensive, urgent efforts. We notified all Arab parties directly involved in the dispute of what had taken place. In this connection I wish to affirm that the cease-fire had been dictated by certain humanitarian circumstances at a given, crucial moment in time, bearing in mind that this does not mean that the Palestinian people should cease their march toward gaining their rights and that our national commitment to the issue of Palestine and our organic relation with the struggle of its people imposed on us to move to save the innocent souls which were harvested by the Israel aircraft. And I take the opportunity to praise the rare heroism shown by Palestinian and Lebanese fighters over those 15 days with their limited capabilities and their unlimited faith, they opposed the aircraft and missiles of the Israeli enemy. To Yasir 'Arafat I send in the name of the kingdom, king, people and government, greetings of appreciation and admiration, to him and to the Palestinian and Lebanese people, for their steadfastness and determination to confront and fight Israeli barbarism.

Question: Does this mean that you are satisfied with the U.S. response to the kingdom's efforts?

Answer: The U.S. Government responded to us quickly and effectively, and we appreciate this. But here we rightly talk about one aspect of our relations with the U.S., which concerns a certain circumstance. We continue to be dissatisfied with the overall U.S. policy in the Middle East, especially as concerns the Palestine problem and the rights of its peoples. And I confirmed to the U.S. that there was no dispute between us and any U.S. administration other than that which concerns the national rights of the Palestinian people. This dispute is not to be scorned, because it is connected with the security of our region and its stability; and subsequently it is related to U.S. interests. I do not understand how successive U.S. administrations continue to expose their relations, and subsequently their interests with the Arab nation, to danger by supporting Israel politically, financially and militarily while the latter continues to occupy the whole of Palestine--in addition to other Arab lands--to build settlements, expropriate land and kill the innocent with American weapons it had agreed not to use for aggression. The U.S. should halt this support in order to safeguard world peace, which threatens to explode. What increases our sorrow is that the U.S. Government continues to adhere to the Camp David accords, whose failure has been proven. We continue to hope that the Reagan administration will accept the uselessness of the Camp David agreements as a framework for just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and will initiate a drastic change in U.S. policy which would lead to the withdrawal of Israel from the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Any attempt which does not seek to force Israel to withdraw and does not seek the establishment of a Palestinian state shall lead to more unrest, killing and destruction, as is happening in Lebanon today.

Now we fear that time will pass without the current American administration embarking on a new serious move that is drastically different from Camp David. Then we shall hear the enduring excuse that Congressional elections are nearing, which will be followed 2 years later by the presidential elections, and subsequently there is a need to await the results, and so on for 30 years. Following the recent events in Lebanon, the international and Western press, especially the Americans, expressed the opinion that the U.S. Government should recognize the PLO. It is a fact that any comprehensive peace in the region should be based on reality and fact and not illusions that lead to unfavorable consequences, as happened in Angola, Ethiopia and Afghanistan. The time has come for the U.S. Government to be less biased toward Israel and more equitable toward the Arabs.

Question: It appears from the analysis made by Your Highness that the setting up of an independent Palestinian state is the basic condition for any comprehensive, settlement in the Middle East. Does Your Highness have a practical vision of such a settlement or the way in which it could be reached?

Answer: Naturally I cannot go into detail now, but there are a number of principles which may be taken as guidelines toward a just settlement; they are principles which the United Nations has taken and reiterated many times in the last few years. They are:

First, that Israel should withdraw from all Arab territory occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem.

Second, that Israeli settlements built on Arab land after 1967 should be dismantled.

Third, a guarantee of freedom of worship for all religions in the holy places.

Fourth, an affirmation of the right of the Palestinian people to return to their homes and to compensate those who do not wish to return.

Fifth, that the West Bank and the Gaza Strip should have a transitional period, under the auspices of the United Nations, for a period not exceeding several months.
Sixth, that an independent Palestinian state should be set up with Jerusalem as its capital.
Seven, that all states in the region should be able to live in peace.
Eight, that the United Nations or member states of the United Nations should guarantee to execute these principles.

As I have said, the principles I have mentioned are not of my own making; I did not invent them--they are General Assembly decisions. They may be summed up in one principle, to emanate from the Security Council, and to provide a framework for a comprehensive and just settlement.

I wish to reaffirm that the principles of a just comprehensive solution have become familiar and do not require great effort:

1. An end to unlimited American support for Israel.
2. An end to Israeli arrogance, whose ugliest facet is embodied in Begin's government. This condition will be automatically fulfilled if the first condition is fulfilled.
3. A recognition that, as Yasir 'Arafat says, the Palestinian figure is the basic figure in the Middle Eastern equation.

Talking about the responsibility of the U.S. in the Arab-Israeli dispute does not absolve the countries of Western Europe from their responsibilities. This applies particularly to Britain, which is now chairman of the EEC, and which bears a great responsibility for what happened to the Palestinians during its mandate. The interests of Western Europe in the Arab region is no less important or vital than those of the U.S. We have heard a great deal about European moves and a European initiative, but so far we have not seen anything definite. In my view a European move should be in two directions: Toward the Middle East on the one hand and toward the United States on the other, as the United States is the main partner in NATO and the leader of the free world.

Question: What is your view, Your Highness, on the continuing Iraqi-Iranian war and the Israeli attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor?

Answer: Iraq is a fraternal Arab country and a founding member of the Arab League. Our pan-Arab commitment to safeguard Iraq's strength and invincibility do not require any underlining because we are linked to Iraq at the pan-Arab level, organically and fatefully. Iraq's strength is not only a strength for us but also a strength for the Arab nation, which cannot do without Iraq's capabilities and energies in the confrontation with the Israeli enemy. We hope that the Muslim leaders will succeed in their good offices endeavors to bring the Iraqi-Iranian war to an end.

Israel's attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor is absolute proof of the fact that Israel is afraid of Iraq's capabilities and energies. Is it possible or logical that the Arabs would permit Israel to continue to impose its will on them by the force of arms? This is a question which I ask before it is too late to the allies, friends and enemies who are responsible for this Israeli rampaging which must be stopped.

Question: Are you optimistic, Your Highness, about a solution to the Lebanese problem being in sight?

Answer: In the Kingdom we are concerned very much about strengthening security and stability in Lebanon and consolidating Lebanese legality. The Kingdom has been making its effort via the Arab followup committee to bring about a national accord. The committee has made appreciably good strides until now.

It has some tasks before it which we hope we will succeed in realizing. I have not the slightest doubt that the sister country Syria is earnest in aiding Lebanon to rise up from its fall, because a relaxation of the situation in Lebanon is reflected positively on the entire area. Lebanese relaxation may be a beginning for an Arab relaxation.

Question: Your Highness, do you expect the U.S. Congress, after its summer recess, to agree to the sale of AWACS to the kingdom?

Answer: In the kingdom we are astonished at the uproar which has accompanied the deal of the AWACS to the kingdom. This is without doubt the work of the Zionist factions which have been applying pressure inside and outside Congress. I previously announced that the purchase of the AWACS is a sovereign act. One does not need to be dilligent to exercise sovereignty. Buying these planes is part of our plan to build a modern army which can defend our country. No power can prevent us from completing the building of our army. Israel and its supporters inside the United States have been trying to punish us as a result of our stand on the Camp David agreements. Our stand on the Camp David agreements is a question of principle and there is no way of going back on it. If Congress is not going to agree to sell us the planes this will not be the end. The gates of the world are open to us. We can obtain what we want in accordance with our needs.

UAE

LIBYA'S AT-TURAYKI HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE 8 AUG

LD081118 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 8 Aug 81

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Aug (JANA)--The brother secretary of foreign affairs has reviewed the oil position on the world market. He has explained the grave situation caused by the huge glut on the market and its result: turning the oil weapon into a weapon against the Arabs and Muslims and strangling the development plans of the oil-producing countries and harming their economic policies--a matter which affects their overall internal and external policies, especially in their stand by the steadfastness of Syria and the Palestinian revolution.

He said at a press conference held in Abu Dhabi today that the oil glut on the world market, which is due to the brethren in Saudi Arabia flooding the market with huge quantities of oil at low prices, is immediately being turned into aircraft, missiles and bombs by which the enemy is being supplied to strike in depth at our Arab nation. He pointed out that America is the one that is benefiting from this glut and from the difference in price and is turning it into military and material aid and assistance for the enemy.

The brother secretary of foreign affairs warned that this glut is a grave pointer to a new war being prepared by the enemy against the Arab nation. This has been proved by events and facts and he pointed out that the new government of the terrorist, Begin, is a war government.

He pointed to the need to urgently deal with the oil glut crisis at a meeting of oil ministers of the OPEC countries. He said that we do not believe that Saudi Arabia is more concerned about the interests of America and the West and their allies than the interests of its Arab and Muslim brethren. He pointed out that many of the oil-producing countries these days are suffering profound difficulties in marketing their products.

He announced the agreement of the Jamahiriyah, Algeria, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Iraq to Nigeria's call to hold an emergency meeting of the organization to study the artificial crisis, to stress the need to reduce and plan production and to respect and be confined to the posted prices.

Regarding the pan-Arab call by the brother leader to mass Arab resources in confronting the real enemy of the Arab nation, he explained that the Jamahiriyah's policy has not changed and that its relations with all countries are defined by their stands on the central cause of the Arab nation. He said that with the exception of the Egyptian regime, the Jamahiriyah has not broken off relations with any states and that we are now calling for the unification of Arab stands in confronting the enemy.

Regarding the role played by the traitor As-Sadat in the region, he stressed that the head of the Egyptian regime is not just a small agent, as the chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Affairs Committee had stated that the United States has agents and one friend, Israel, in the region. Moreover, he is playing the role of imperialist policeman in the Arab region and Africa and is preparing with his masters in Washington to detonate plots, disturbances and coups which would serve his purpose and enable America to invade the region and control the resources of its peoples. He stressed that the Jamahiriyah will not be dragged into a non-pan-Arab battle because it believes that the Arab gun must be pointed at the enemy. However, we will defend ourselves if the defeated [As-Sadat] commits aggression against us.

Regarding the plan of the American CIA to assassinate the leader, the brother secretary mentioned that this is not improbable coming as it does from American terror plans. He recalled its criminal actions in Chile, Congo and Latin America, which revealed that America always resorts to terrorist methods in liquidating its opposition when other means of subjugating them have failed.

He said that the repeated statements of American officials which point out that Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is the sole obstacle to their plans in the region lead us to be fully convinced of their intention of preparing the Arab region to become fully open to them.

Regarding the unity between Libya and Syria, he stressed that work to establish the executive foundation for it is forging ahead well. He announced that the unity committee will shortly meet in Tripoli.

He stressed the need for the Arabs to seriously stand by the side of Lebanon. He stressed that the Arabism, unity and sovereignty of Lebanon is an Arab duty to which we must be committed and which must be implemented. He pointed to the fact that what is happening in Lebanon today is part of our struggle against the enemy. In this connection he said that the Libyan offer to ensure an air umbrella over Lebanon still stands.

Regarding the Iraq-Iran war, he stressed that the Jamahiriyah was opposed to it from the start. He recalled the cable of the leader in which he stressed that the killer and the killed in this are for the fire [of hell] and that Iranian and Iraqi rifles should be directed against the enemy. He pointed out that the Jamahiriyah has repeatedly appealed for the war to be halted and that it is ready to mediate if it is asked to do so.

Regarding relations with sister Chad, the brother secretary stressed that processes of construction development and the restoration of security are progressing well and that relations between our two people are historic ones.

Regarding relations with the new French Government, he said that they were good and that dialogue is now starting between us. He explained that the stand of the new government differs from the stand of the previous government, especially regarding Africa and matters which encourage cooperation and dialogue.

LIBYA'S AT-TURAYKI COMMENTS ON 'ISLAMIC BOMB'

JN090956 Doha QNA in Arabic 0910 GMT 9 Aug 81

[Text] Sharjah, 9 Aug (QNA)--Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, Libyan secretary of foreign affairs, has denied that his country is currently implementing its own nuclear program.

However, he called for supporting Pakistan's nuclear program or any Arab or Islamic program because this would serve the common cause of the Arab and Islamic nation.

In a statement to the UAE paper AL-KHALIJ today, At-Turayki stressed the need to support Arab and Islamic countries in this course regardless of the name to be given to such a bomb. At-Turayki said that a project for the production of an Islamic bomb under the supervision of Pakistan or any other Islamic country would consolidate Islamic strength for championing the Palestinian cause, given that it is our basic cause. He pointed out that Israel is planning to impose backwardness on the Arab and Islamic nations and that any Arab or Islamic program will mean peace, development and protection of the Arab and Islamic peoples from aggression.

YAR

USSR'S GRINEVSKIY MEETS WITH SALIH, ATH-THAWR

President's Reception

JN081300 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Aug 81

[Text] Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president and commander in chief of the armed forces, received in his office at the General Command at 1030 this morning Oleg Grinevskiy, chief of the Near Eastern Countries Department in the Soviet Foreign Ministry. Grinevskiy, who is currently visiting the country, delivered an oral message to the brother president leader on bilateral relations from the Soviet leaders. The meeting was attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Brother Ghalib 'Ali Jamil and his excellency the Soviet ambassador in San'a'.

Foreign Minister Meeting

JN091308 San'a' Domestic Service 1200 GMT 9 Aug 81

[Text] Foreign Minister Brother 'Ali Lutfi ath-Thawr received today Oleg Grinevskiy, chief of the Near Eastern Countries Deparment at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, who is currently visiting the YAR. They discussed bilateral relations and means to develop them. The meeting was attended by the brother director of the Political Department at the Foreign Ministry and his excellency the Soviet ambassador in San'a'.

AS-SADAT INTERVIEW ON 'MEET THE PRESS' PROGRAM

NC092040 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1842 GMT 9 Aug 81

[9 August interview by President Anwar as-Sadat on the U.S. NBC television program "Meet the Press" given at Blair House in Washington in English with superimposed Arabic translation--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr President: President Reagan reiterated to you the U.S. promise not to speak with the PLO. Do you feel that President Reagan has rejected your proposal?

[Answer] Well, what I really feel is that what Yasir 'Arafat said at a press conference that they will respect the cease-fire is a great achievement. This moment I thought that the next step which must follow is the consolidation of the cease-fire and that we must not allow a fragile cease-fire. I recommended this morning that a dialogue start between the United States and the Palestinians for the sake of the question of peace. Mr Reagan heard my proposal and so did his aides, Vice President Bush, Haig and Weinberger. However, we must be fair. I have not made my proposal to receive an immediate answer. However, they ought to discuss this proposal with the parties concerned (?in the region). Prime Minister Begin will be arriving in the United States and meeting with President Reagan. King Husayn will be doing the same. I believe that it is fair to say that they can form their point of view after this. However, I have not asked for an immediate answer from President Reagan.

[Question] In a statement on comprehensive peace in the Middle East, Prince Fahd said that Israel will not agree to a state for the Palestinians. What is your opinion, Mr President?

[Answer] If you ask me my view concerning Prince Fahd's nine-point statement, then my view is that the cease-fire was a great accomplishment. But unfortunately Fahd has not added anything new. My observation is that it is the easiest thing for me to sit in Cairo and say that the United States must do this and that and that Prime Minister Begin must do this and that, while I am sitting in Cairo without making any contributions. I would like to see Prince Fahd make a contribution if the United States is to exert pressure for the sake of peace. I would like to see him sharing and contributing instead of adopting the old stand, which I do not approve of and totally reject. I believe that everyone who wants to have a voice in this should make his share and contribution to this.

[Question] One of the things Prince Fahd said was that Camp David is a failure. Do you share this view, Mr President?

[Answer] Absolutely not. I consider, as I already told you, that Prince Fahd has added nothing new. This was his idea even before the Camp David resolutions were announced. After signing the Camp David accords, we left Camp David for Washington to sign them in the White House. Their reaction appeared immediately and before the text of the Camp David accords was announced.

[Question] Many say that this is the first time that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has announced its readiness to recognize Israel.

[Answer] This is not the first time. It has announced this before, and I have previously told you this. In line with their attitude after Camp David, they boycotted Egypt and agreed to adopt a measure on severing diplomatic relations with Egypt and drain it economically. They issued the same statement which Fahd issued yesterday.

[Question] Is there no other way for settling the Palestinian qqestion without U.S. pressure on Israel?

[Answer] If you ask me about my aim behind this visit, then I would say that we have discussed the main problems. If I can reach a friendship and understanding with President Reagan, then this is enough. This was the purpose of my visit.

Through friendship, anything can be discussed. I have placed all these points before him, and, as I said, he must take his time to contact the other parties concerned. We will work together later.

[Question] During your visit, you spoke to the Congress and asked that AWACS planes be sent to Saudi Arabia. Is it likely that Egypt will ask for such planes, and what is the benefit from the attitude you announced?

[Answer] Frankly speaking, we live in an area which is full of disturbances. It is the most complicated and explosive area. We are facing problems in Southeast Asia and Europe and elsewhere. However, I believe that the biggest problem is in the Middle East, the area where I live. You know that the Soviet Union has exploited the recent U.S. stand and has begun building a security belt starting with Afghanistan and extending to Iran, the Gulf states, South Yemen, Bab El Mandeb and Ethiopia. Libya, for example, has what NATO calls the Foxbat plane. It is a most active plane. This plane found its way to Libya, particularly after the situation between Sudan and Libya.

What is happening around us? The Gulf area has about 60 percent of the energy. If something were to happen to this energy, Europe and Japan will suffer. You must not leave the Saudis without an effective role in the area. I found out at some time that this was necessary. I summoned the U.S. ambassador before my trip to Sudan. I wanted to know what was happening in Libya, Sudan and Chad. Therefore, I asked him to supply me with an AWACS plane.

[Question] In the light of the future picture of the Middle East which you have drawn up, will you permit the United States to use the facilities which exist in the two bases in Sinai after Israel's withdrawal? Will you permit us to do so?

[Answer] I have announced my stand on this. I am giving you facilities in all parts of Egypt except the Sinai. I don't want a shade of doubt that the Sinai has been returned to Egypt. Some critics exploited what has been announced to the effect that Israel will be receiving two bases from the United States. However, I do not intend to give any facilities in the Sinai. The facilities are available in the other parts of Egypt and we have agreed on this.

[Question] Concerning the Palestinian question, you have been asked a lot about the PLO's stand. Is the PLO the sole representative of the Palestinian people?

[Answer] No. I say that the PLO is not the sole representative of the Palestinians. This is my stand. After this, let me tell you that there are mayors in the West Bank and Gaza strip who were elected under the Israeli occupation. Israel knows that they are affiliated with the PLO.

[Question] Has Egypt any relations with the PLO now?

[Answer] We have no relations with the PLO. We have no contacts with it either.

[Question] You say that the PLO is not the sole representative, but you asked President Reagan to hold a dialogue with it and referred to them as agents of the Soviet Union. You now ask the United States and Israel to deal with the PLO.

[Answer] As I have already said, I have not asked only the United States to hold a dialogue. On the other hand, there is the cease-fire which was reached in cooperation with the United States and Saudi Arabia. This means that there were contacts among Jidda, Jerusalem and Damascus. Philip Habib went to Jidda and because of the [word indistinct] measures, he could not fly from Jidda to Jerusalem. This fact shows that some contacts took place between Jidda, the Palestinians, Israel and Damascus. Why don't we build on this?

[Question] Mr President: You said in Cairo last year that the weakness of the U.S. policy enabled the Soviet Union to establish a foothold in the Gulf area. Has the Reagan administration changed its policy toward the Soviet Union in this regard?

[Answer] I can say that President Reagan's policy [sentence left incomplete]. When Haig visited the region, [words indistinct] you have said that it is perhaps late to begin [word indistinct]. I might have not expressed myself very clearly. I say that we have still the upper hand and we have not lost any time. We can prepare ourselves, because the situation in Iran, for example, is characterized by total chaos and anything could happen any moment. We must confront this. Therefore, I urge the government to begin to confront any developments that might occur as a result of the chaotic situation in Iran unhesitantly.

[Question] Do you expect President Reagan to participate as a full partner in the peace process in the region, as President Carter did?

[Answer] I am happy to say that I came here with an important issue which I wanted to put to President Reagan--the continuation as a full partner with us in the process. I did not raise this issue, because President Reagan himself said that he was committed to proceed with us in the peace process.

[Question] What are your impressions about him as a man?

[Answer] I admire him. He is aware of all problems in the world and the situations in Europe, Poland and in our region, which is the link between Europe and the Middle East, and in all parts of the world. I found out that the man is aware of all the main problems we discussed.

[Question] As a result of your visit this week, has the United States promised to give you economic and military aid?

[Answer] I have not discussed this and I have not raised it at all. I pointed out at the Senate and the Congress that we should be treated on equal footing with Israel because of the responsibilities we shoulder.

[Question] Would it be logical to expect the Congress and the government to agree to this?

[Answer] I hope for treatment similar to that of Israel.

[Question] Do you expect to obtain AWACS planes?

[Answer] What I ask is merely one plane [words indistinct].

[Question] There are reports saying that you may perhaps feel concerned that Israel might refuse to withdraw from the rest of the Sinai.

[Answer] Most positively, there is no (?quarrel) with anybody and I have not felt this.

'ALI COMMENTS ON SUCCESS OF AS-SADAT U.S. VISIT

NC090920 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 9 Aug 81

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, commenting on the talks President as-Sadat and the Egyptian delegation held with U.S. officials, has said that President as-Sadat's visit to the United States came at an important stage. He said that the goal of the visit, to define the dimensions of the political moves in the future following the agreement on the multinational force in the Sinai, was completely achieved at the first meeting between Presidents As-Sadat and Reagan.

'Ali said that President as-Sadat's visit has contributed to making the situaiton clearer to the U.S. administration regarding the need to support the countries, such as Sudan and Saudi Arabia, that want to safeguard their independence in the face of foreign intervention.

'Ali said President as-Sadat's talks dealt with the Middle East problem, promoting the peace issue and confronting the suspect interference of the countries of the area. He said that the visit was important regarding the problems of the Middle East countries on the strategic levels. He said that Egyptian-U.S. relations have reached an unprecedented stage in all political and economic spheres.

'ALI COMMENTS ON RESOLVING PALESTINIAN ISSUE

NC090814 Cairo MENA in English 2320 GMT 8 Aug 81

[Text] Cairo, 8 Aug (MENA)--Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali affirmed today that Egypt's prime aim is to achieve a just and comperehensive peace in the Middle East through the solving of the Palestinian problem.

In an interview with Sawt-al-'Arab Radio, the foreign minister said that the Middle East peace issue headed topics President as-Sadat discussed with officials in Britain and the United States. He further said that after the signing of the agreements on the multinational force, the Middle East and the Palestinian issues, with emphasis on the autonomy, as it constitutes the second part of the Camp David. [sentence as received]

The foreign minister termed the role Egypt is playing to achieve an all out peace as constructive and positive.

In reply to a question on the role Britain could play to solve the Middle East problem, particularly the Palestinian issue, the foreign minister said that as the chairman of the EEC and in cooperation with the United States, Britain could do much more in this respect.

He pointed out to the role the United States had played to achieve the recent cease-fire in Lebanon, adding that this could be developed into a kind of settlement.

As regards the role the U.S. play to solwe the Palestinian problem, particularly on Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the foreign minister said that the U.S. plays the role of the full partner since Camp David and affirmed that the U.S. will continue its efforts to achieve a global settlement. The foreign minister further said that Palestinians should sit with Israelis and that the U.S. should approach the Palestinians to encourage a reciprocal and simaltaneous recognition between the Palestinians and Israel.

Answering a question on Austria's role to minimise differences in viewpoints between Israel and the Palestinians, the foreign minister said that Chancellor Bruno Kreisky is playing a significant role through the Socialist International and his personal relations with both the Israelis and the Palestinians to bring together parties concerned in the Middle East problem.

The foreign minister said also that the major task in this stage is the Palestinian autonomy and affirmed that Egypt is not talking on behalf of the Palestinians.

He further added that the Camp David had only placed the Palestinian issue on the right path towards a solution.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUES 7-9 AUG

Communique No 422

JN071620 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 7 Aug 81

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Aug (INA)--Our triumphant forces inflicted heavy losses on the forces of the Persian regime during their military activities in the past 24 hours. Known enemy losses amount to 71 killed and 4 infantry positions, 2 tanks, 3 vehicles, 3 guns, 4 observation posts, 1 excavator and 2 stockpiles of hardware destroyed. This came in communique No 422 issued this evening by the Armed Forces General Command. The communique added that our losses amounted to 11 martyrs in all sectors and 2 vehicles, 2 mortars and 1 gun damaged. The text of the communique is as follows:

Communique No 422 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With confidence and faith, our brave armed forces continue their activities in the operational sectors. The results of their activities last night and today were as follows:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Our forward units pounded enemy personnel concentrations with various weapons in front of their positions in the Dezful region, killing 21 and destroying 2 observation posts in the same region.
B. Enemy concentrations were sighted in front of our positions in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region. They were hit with various weapons and forced to retreat, sustaining 14 killed and 2 guns and 1 observation post destroyed.
C. One of our combat patrols attacked enemy positions in the Sumar region and hit them hard with various weapons, killing 12 and destroying 4 infantry positions and 1 vehicle.
D. Eight killed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region.
E. Seven killed in the Nowsud region.
F. Four killed and one excavator destroyed in the Mehran region.
G. Two killed and one tank, one vehicle, one gun, one stockpile of hardware and one observation post destroyed in the Abadan region.
H. Two killed and one stockpile of hardware destroyed in the Shush region.
I. One tank destroyed in the Ahvaz region.
J. One killed in the Mimak region in front of our positions in Sayf Sa'd.
K. One vehicle destroyed in the Gilan-e Gharb region.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 71 killed and 4 infantry positions, 2 tanks, 3 vehicles, 3 guns, 1 excavator, 2 stockpiles of hardware and 4 observation posts destroyed.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 11 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: Two vehicles, two mortars and one gun damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 August 1981

Communique No 423

JN081655 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Aug 81

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Aug (INA)--The Iraqi Armed Forces inflicted new losses on the Iranian enemy in the past 24 hours amounting to 60 killed and war materiel destroyed. Communique No 423 issued this evening by the Armed Forces General Command put the other known enemy losses at five infantry positions, one tank, one personnel carrier, ten vehicles, three guns, one rocket launcher, ten stockpiles of hardware, three observation posts and one excavator destroyed. The text of the communique is as follows:

Communique No 423 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant armed forces continued their activities in the operational sectors. The results of their activities last night and today were as follows:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Using various types of weapons, our forward units pounded enemy concentrations and positions in the Dezful area, killing 27 and destroying 5 vehicles, 3 guns, 3 stockpiles of hardware and 2 observations posts.
B. An enemy troop concentration was sighted opposite our positions in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area. Our units violently pounded the concentration, forcing it to retreat after sustaining 24 dead. Our units also destroyed one vehicle carrying hardware and one stockpile of hardware in the same area.
C. Three killed and four infantry positions, one armored personnel carrier and three stockpiles of hardware destroyed in the Abadan area.
D. One of our forward units clashed with an enemy force in the Nowsud area, killing five and destroying one vehicle. Our units also destroyed one stockpile of hardware in the Iranian zone opposite Panjwin.
E. One killed and one excavator and one observation post destroyed in the Mehran area.
F. One infantry position, one tank and one vehicle destroyed in the Mimak area opposite our positions in Sayf Sa'd.
G. Two vehicles and two stockpiles of hardware destroyed in the Shush area.
H. One rocket launcher destroyed in the Ahvaz area.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 60 killed and 5 infantry positions, 1 tank, 1 personnel carrier, 10 vehicles, 3 guns, 1 excavator, 1 rocket launcher, 10 stockpiles of hardware and 3 observation posts destroyed.

II. It has been confirmed to us that the enemy's losses on 1 August as a result of our units' activities in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area were eight killed in addition to the number announced at the time.

III. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 10 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: One vehicle and one gun damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 8 August 1981

Communique No 424

JN091716 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 9 Aug 81

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Aug (INA)--Iraqi aircraft today attacked Iranian enemy concentrations in the Abadan region and scored direct hits before returning safely to base. This came in communique No 424 issued this evening by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on the outcome of the activities in the operational sectors against the Iranian enemy. The communique added that enemy losses in the past 24 hours had amounted to 22 killed and 2 infantry positions, 2 armored personnel carriers, 6 vehicles, 2 guns, 10 stockpiles of hardware and 3 observation posts destroyed. The text of the communique is as follows:

Communique No 424 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant armed forces pounded the forces of the regime of ignorant racist Persians last night and today with the following results:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Last night one of our forward units raided enemy positions and concentrations in the Abadan region and hit them hard with various weapons, inflicting heavy losses on them in lives and equipment. The enemy also lost in the same region four killed and two infantry positions, one armored personnel carrier, one vehicle, one gun, three stockpiles of hardware and one observation post destroyed.
B. Ten killed and one vehicle destroyed in the Dezful region.
C. Eight killed and three vehicles, one loaded with hardware; one gun; and four stockpiles of hardware destroyed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region.
D. One vehicle, one stockpile of hardware and one observation post destroyed in the Shush region.
E. One armored personnel carrier destroyed in the Mimak region in front of our positions in Sayf Sa'd.
F. Two stockpiles of hardware and one observation post destroyed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region.
G. Our valiant air force planes today attacked enemy concentrations in the Abadan region and scored direct hits against them before returning safely to base.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 22 killed and 2 infantry positions, 2 armored personnel carriers, 6 vehicles, 2 guns, 10 stockpiles of hardware and 3 observation posts destroyed.

II. It has been ascertained that enemy losses on 4 August in the Iranian region opposite Panjwin as a result of our units' activities were five killed and four vehicles destroyed.

III. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 10 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: Two vehicles and one gun damaged.
C. This morning the Persian enemy shelled Basra with heavy artillery. Our losses in the enemy artillery shelling were two martyrs and four others wounded. All are civilians.
D. At 1240 today an enemy plane raided the ports of Al-Bakr and (Al-'Amiq). It was repulsed by our ground resistance and forced to flee.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 9 August 1981

NONALIGNED MEDIATION COMMITTEE ARRIVES FOR TALKS

Received by Husayn

JN091154 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Aug 81

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Aug (INA)--President Saddam Husayn has declared that Iraq, due to its faith in the Nonaligned Movement's principles, has cooperated and will continue to cooperate with the good offices committee very sincerely.

Receiving the committee members here today, the president said that Iraq is ready to receive the committee at any time it considers adequate for the resumption of its task regardless of the stand adopted by the Iranians.

The president expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the committee since its formation at the New Delhi conference and for the burdens it has shouldered for the sake of reaching a peaceful settlement in harmony with the Nonaligned Movement's principles and serving the humanitarian aims in which all countries seeking justice, freedom and peace believe.

Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, in his capacity as the committee's chairman, briefed President Saddam Husayn on the results of the committee's visit to Tehran and its efforts to reach a just settlement in the Iraqi-Iranian conflict.

The committee members expressed their great appreciation for President Saddam Husayn's stand and for Iraq's positive response and cooperation with the committee throughout the previous period.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, and Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of foreign affairs.

Meets With 'Aziz

JN081848 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Aug 81

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Aug (INA)--Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, tonight received the nonaligned good offices committee. Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi attended the meeting.

'Aziz welcomed the members of the committee and expressed Iraq's readiness to cooperate with them in reaching a just, honorable and peaceful settlement for the existing conflict between Iraq and Iran. This emanates from Iraq's belief in the principles of the Nonaligned Movement, as it is an active member and a sincere and faithful defender of its principles.

'Aziz reiterated Iraq's sincere and serious cooperation with all the endeavors exerted to reach an honorable solution, such as those of the Islamic Conference Organization and the UN secretary general's representative. He explained Iraq's firm stands on the conflict with Iran and the means to reach a settlement that would guarantee the historical and legitimate rights of the two sides as confirmed by President Saddam Husayn on many occasions as confirmed by Iraq's officially declared stands.

The committee, which was formed by the nonaligned foreign ministers' conference in New Delhi in February, comprises Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, Indian Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao, Zambian Foreign Minister Dr Lameck Goma and PLO Political Department Head Faruq Qaddumi.

Departs Baghdad

JN091255 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Aug 81

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 9 Aug (INA)--The members of the nonaligned good offices committee seeking a solution to the Iraqi-Iranian conflict left Baghdad today concluding a 2-day visit to Iraq.

In a press statement issued prior to its departure, the committee expressed concern over the harm inflicted by the continuation of war on the Iraqi and Iranian peoples. It also expressed concern over the danger of the war spreading to other states and the dangers it poses to international security and peace.

The statement added that President Saddam Husayn has reaffirmed Iraq's stand and encouraged the ministerial committee to continue its efforts toward reaching a settlement of the conflict between Iraq and Iran.

The statement pointed out the committee's readiness to continue its efforts within the framework of the principles defined by the New Delhi meeting of the nonaligned foreign ministers last February in order to find a peaceful, just and honorable political solution to the conflict between the two countries.

REPORTAGE ON MILITARY ACTIVITIES 7-9 AUG

Artillery Shelling

NC091943 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 9 Aug 81

[Text] This morning the Syrian emplacements in Bshillama and (Qillayah) directed heavy artillery shells and tank fire toward the areas of (Az-Za'rur), (Qanat Dakush), Al-Mazar, the Biskinta Hills and the surroundings of [words indistinct]. The Syrian shelling of the mountain areas lasted until 1330.

In the meantime clashes were resumed in Tripoli. The areas of Al-Qubbah, (Ba'l Muhsin) and Bab at-Tabbanah were the scene of battles for 30 minutes from 1330 to 1400 today, restoring the atmospheres of tension, anxiety and fear of adverse complications in the city.

There are two trends prevailing now. The first trend calls for escalation and is represented by 'Ali 'Id. The second trend, toward easing the situation, is represented by Brig Gen Muhammad Ghanim. This discrepancy appeared in one of the meetings of the security committee when 'Ali 'Id threatened to resort to arms.

One of our correspondents in Tripoli says that when the meeting was in progress, fire was opened on the house of Fatah official Mundhir Abu Ghazalah. Fire was opened on the car of Abu al-Hawl last night. Bursts of gunfire were opened this afternoon on the Fatah office in the At-Tall area. It was reported from the north a short while ago that the Syrian Army is reinforcing its forces in the city of Tripoli. A convoy of troop carriers, estimated at 30 trucks, packed with fully armed soldiers was seen in the Al-Bahsah area. The convoy was on its way to Tripoli.

Today, an estimated 70 armed persons installed rocket and heavy machinegun emplacements in the western side of the Abu Samrah quarter. Armed men today set up the barriers which previously had been removed.

At 1745 tonight, the Syrians ignited the commerical area front when they directed heavy- and medium-caliber artillery shells and rocket launchers and tank fire toward the areas of As-Sayfi, Pigale, Al-Burj, Empire and Ad-Dabbas. The shells fell on residential quarters in Al-Jummayzah and As-Sayfi as well as Beirut Port Bridge. Shells fell on the area of Mar Mikhayil and the electricity company premises. The customs department building in Beirut Port received direct hits, causing fires. It has been learned that the building was hit by 12 shells.

The Syrian shelling also included the Greek Orthodox hospital in Al-Ashrafiyah and (Al-Attal) area. We have been informed a short while ago that a fire has broken out in the Ash-Shawkatli building in [word indistinct] area after being hit by Syrian shells.

Traffic was disrupted in the Sodeco area at 1530 when the aliens fired a B-7 shell, which exploded over Burj Rizq. It was followed by bursts of machinegun fire.

We point out here that the Israeli planes carried out reconnaissance flights over the capital and the south in the morning and in the afternoon, drawing antiaircraft fire.

Tripoli Shooting

NC090708 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Aug 81

[Text] A state of strong anxiety and caution prevailed in Tripoli last night because of intermittent shooting in the evening.

Moreover, there were explosions and machinegun fire in the areas of Al-Qibbah, Al-American Square and Jadaid Street in the afternoon. However, a precise assessment of the losses has not been made so far.

Reports received since midnight from the north indicate that attempts to disrupt the situation are continuing, but that attempts by some sides to prevent friction and the exacerbation of the situation are also continuing.

The security committee formed of representatives of the disrupting parties held a meeting which continued until the early hours of this morning. It discussed the reinforcement of the armed members of the Popular Resistance with members of the Arab Deterrent Forces so as to enter the Ba'l Muhsin area where 'Ali 'Id's organization is positioned and the Bab at-Tabbanah quarter where the Popular Resistance is in control.

Reports from the north have also indicated that new security measures will be applied in Tripoli and Al-Qibbah today, foremost being closing down the Palestinian offices that are outside the camps.

Libyan Involvement Claimed

NC071814 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 7 Aug 81

[Text] Preliminary statistics reveal that the [recent] clashes in Tripoli have resulted in the deaths of about 30 persons and injuries to more than 70.

It has been reported that Libyan officers in the Al-Bardawi and Al-Barid barracks have contributed in training and arming the Popular Resistance in Tripoli. On the other hand, the Syrian artillery has been deployed in four posts overlooking the town. These are: The Al-Badiriyah center on the (?Mishliyah)-Zgharta road, the Tallat adh-Dhahab center on the Tripoli-(?Mishliyah) highway, the Al-Mu'aysirah center facing Bab at-Tabbanah and a fourth center on the slope overlooking the Al-Bardawi barracks.

In a recent contact with the VOL, it has been reported that intensive patrols of the resistance and the leftist parties, led by Abu al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid], have been removing roadblocks so as to allow the entry of the regular [Lebanese] forces later on to the areas of tension. The armed centers will be turned into communication offices.

This evening, a security source in Tripoli said that efforts are being made tonight to prevent giving any new opportunity to the armed men to carry out disturbances in Tripoli.

7 AUG TELEVISION INTERVIEW WITH AL-WAZZAN

NC081332 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0608 GMT 8 Aug 81

[Interview granted by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan to Lebanese television conducted in the television's Beirut studios on 7 August--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Al-Wazzan] It is our right to be anxious. It is the right of the citizens to be pained and it is the right of officials to be anxious and pained at the same time. We hardly tackle a situation in one area and relieve it of its pain before we find ourselves confronting a new problem. It appears as if Lebanon is destined to continue with its pains sometimes in the south and at other times in Al-Biqa' and in Zahlah itself, in Beirut, and in the north and in Tripoli itself.

Yesterday, Thursday, the situation was constantly improving. I was informed by the sources responsible for all the security sections that the situation was calm. I sensed this yesterday and wished that calm would continue. How badly we need this calm in every part of Lebanon.

It is regrettable that after midnight I was informed that the situation had worsened again despite the presence of the higher commands, which acted yesterday to settle the situation and establish calm. Before I entered the studios, it is about noon now, and this interview will not be screened until this evening when I am supposed to speak, the governor of the north told me that things are tending toward calm or have calmed down, and that those who are acting there are seeking to establish this calm. I hope that all efforts will continue and that all parties will benefit from the efforts to pacify the situation. Lebanon, which has suffered and is still suffering, has had enough suffering and affliction. We seek peace, calm and safety. Let them give us the opportunity to live, whoever they are who are preventing an end to our pain.

[Question] You will visit Damascus on Sunday. The visit comes, as we understand, following U.S. proposals and plans for peace in Lebanon and the region. Furthermore, your visit comes in the wake of your meeting with the PLO chairman. Has the visit any relationship with coordination of the Lebanese-Palestinian-Syrian stance, which Your Excellency has worked for since you assumed the premiership, and will you ask Syria to support the arrangement of the security and political conditions at home on the eve of the meeting of the followup committee?

[Answer] The visit was decided upon prior to the U.S. proposals, the details of which we have not yet received and which I insist on not discussing officially before they reach us officially. My government's policy has been consecrated in the ministerial statement, and it is based on a firm belief in the special relations existing between us and fraternal Syria and how these relations should exist. We have explained this more than once.

I have often stated that it is possible to falsify history sometimes--and some persons might succeed in doing so--but that it is impossible to falsify geography. No one can succeed in falsifying geography. This does not mean that we neglect the other historical, national and neighborly ties, but the geographic fact requires that we single out this relationship and coordinate to the fullest extent possible with fraternal Syria. If we were to view our situation in Lebanon, we would see that we are bounded on the west by a sea, which I call a big demon. I do not know who would come to me from the sea. In the south, we have the enemy--the Zionist enemy--who is crouching on the border and coveting its territory. In the east, I have only fraternal Syria; in the north, we only have fraternal Syria. This means that we are bounded on two sides by an enemy--the Zionist enemy and a big unknown enemy--and bounded on the two other sides by a brother, who is Syria, in the east and the west.

Therefore, we must constantly coordinate with fraternal Syria, because we and it have an almost common fate as long as the enemy who has been planted in the heart of the Arab world covets us and covets this world and its resources, particularly we in Lebanon. We in Lebanon are the opposite of Israel. We have the land and the waters that are coveted. We also play the role which Israel wants to usurp from Lebanon. Therefore, we are the people and country that mostly need to rally our forces, friends and brothers on our side to confront the Israeli enemy. Our going to Syria is dictated by this perpetual notion--the notion of constant coordination which is necessary between us and fraternal Syria.

In this respect, we must also say that a revolution has flourished on Lebanese territory--the Palestinian revolution--the actions of which dictate, as they have dictated in the past, agreements with the PLO. At this phase also we must follow this path, organize our affairs and coordinate our actions in all fields, so that we may all reap the benefits and in order that we may drive away the evil as much as possible. I say as much as possible because as long as we live with Israel near us, we must expect evil every day and even every moment. This must be understood by everyone. The countries of the world which defend their dignity, interests, entity and their future and that of its sons do not do so free of charge.

Man must pay the tax of life, the tax of dignity and the tax of survival. We have paid and continue to pay these taxes and are prepared to continue the payment, provided that this payment is organized and directed toward the progress of the region and that it is not in vain.

[Question] Lebanon considers Washington a friendly state. And there is, perhaps, some improvement in the U.S. position toward Lebanon and the states of the area. In your capacity as [acting] foreign minister, I would like to ask you to what extent can Lebanon continue to depend on the U.S. role or the new U.S. policy, and what is the information you have on this new role?

[Answer] When referring to the great states, I would like to point out that Lebanon is proud of all its international friendships, which are not confined to the West, center or East. We are the friends of all countries and forces that support our right and the UN principles and that act to undo the harm and evil befalling us. If during this phase Washington has awakened and has begun to realize the facts, after it has embraces and continues to embrace its pampered child, Israel--if it has recently realized the facts, whether out of its own interest, the interest of world peace or the interest of justice, then we welcome any realization by Washington or anyone else. Actually, we feel that there is the beginning of an understanding. I insist that it is the beginning of an understanding and not a full understanding. The Americans must realize that the small peoples who believe in the UN principles insist that the world and the world community and the United Nations uphold these principles and rights, or else the small people will find themselves compelled to reconsider their conditions and conduct in light of the international conflicts and the evils they began spreading not only in our region but in many regions of the world.

If Washington has awakened now, then we await any move. We will most positively study every effort and every move that is beneficial to peace, justice and what is right--our right in Lebanon and the right of our Palestinian brothers, who are only demanding to return to their homeland. Their return to their homeland is the only way to put things in their proper perspective. The Palestinian people must gain their right to their state and to their territory. The Lebanese people must also have their right to their territory and sovereignty. All of us would then live peacefully.

[Question] During an interview I had with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi he told me verbatim during the discussion of the question of the south that Prime Minister al-Wazzan presented valuable information on the situation there. Can you briefly tell us the nature of this information and the ideas it contains?

[Answer] The south, as we have said, is a big responsibility. It is the essence of the Lebanese problem, which has turned into a continuous tragedy. It is also the approach to the solution we seek. All forces are in the south and all conflicts are taking place there. There is also the force which the United Nations sent to the south to rescue it from the Israeli incursion that took place years ago and to enable the state to restore its sovereignty there. This force is still unable to achieve the goal for which it was sent to the south because of several considerations.

The south, which suffers many tragedies, has exported some of its tragedies, which have impacted on all of Lebanon. I did not only make my suggestion at the recent session of the Arab followup committee to which the Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi referred. I also made the suggestion at the earlier session and repeated it at the recent session before we heard the good review that Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Kamil al-As'ad made.

I briefed the brothers at the followup committee of our tragic situation in the south and the steady efforts needed to consolidate the cease-fire. Here I refer to our complaint to the Security Council, which issued a quick preliminary resolution providing for a cease-fire. The cease-fire has been implemented and we are eager to maintain it because it is in our interest that the cease-fire should continue. All our current efforts and pressures are now concentrated on maintaining the cease-fire. We have not yet been able to overcome the tragedies caused by the recent Israeli attacks on the south and Beirut. We are living a state of war or the vestiges of a state of war as far as bridges, communications and victims, their families and property and displacement and as far as hospitals and the oil crisis is concerned. Because of the fear that the cease-fire will collapse before the Lebanese are able to overcome what has befallen them in the first tragedy, we must never expose ourselves to a new tragedy, which would mark our end. No one wishes for this end, and we must not accept anything that will take us to such an end. I know that our Lebanese people are sincere, capable and can resist the challenges. But they have suffered enough pain. This is the reason for the information I gave to ensure a sound situation in the south that would help the continuation of the cease-fire and of the useful action helping the UN Emergency Forces carry out their task in full. This was presented to the followup committee within the Lebanese working paper. However, following the Israeli attacks and what has befallen us, I told the followup committee that all provisions of the Lebanese working paper apply to the south, including a halt to the dealings with Israel. The question of the south must be raised every time the question of dealings with Israel is raised. The question of the south must be raised when the provision on the national dialogue and accord is raised. The question of the south must also be raised when dealing with the question of our special relations with Israel. The question of the south must also be raised when the question of the army and its rebuilding is raised. The question of the south has imposed itself on all provisions of the working paper. This is the information to which Kilibi referred.

[Question] It is known that issues relating to the army have been the subject of political stands for years. What is your concept of the army's future and what are the steps that you intend to take to make the army acceptable and effective as well as responsive to the desires of all Lebanese, who demand that it takes its position [words indistinct]?

[Answer] We say that the army must be rebuilt on a sound national basis. The army is not merely numbers, tools, equipment, aircraft and guns. Before being this, it is a united national spirit believing in the same principles. The army is sacrificing its life for the sake of these principles. I have often said that the army must be the example according to which we must rebuild all our Lebanese institutions. It must become a mirror reflecting the reality of the Lebanese people and the future we want.

[Question] There has recently been an uproar regarding the Cabinet's decision approving the repair of the Mirage aircraft. Some people have gone so far as to speak about transactions and commissions because the price of repairs will be more than 200 million liras. Can you clarify this matter, and why did you prefer to repair the Mirages rather than dispense with them, bearing in mind that those who oppose dispensing with them say that they are suitable for defending Lebanon?

[Answer] I would prefer not to answer this question and that it be submitted to the authorities concerned in the Defense Ministry and to the defense minister himself, who has all the administrative and technical information. Despite this, I will not hesitate to answer this question not only as a citizen but also as a responsible official. As long as I am a prime minister and a government official, I will never agree to the sale of any weapons belonging to the Lebanese Army.

I am responsible for this rule, and I will not agree to the sale of any weapons belonging to the Lebanese Army, particularly weapons of this type. There are ground weapons, air weapons and naval weapons as well as other types of weapons. The nucleus of Lebanon's air weapons is the Mirage aircraft. The Mirage aircraft are the basic and rich nucleus, if the term applies, befitting our resources.

Can we sell the Mirage planes? I put this question. Can we ourselves sell the Mirage planes? I quickly answer that we cannot do this from the material or moral standpoints. Morally, these planes were bought upon a decision by the Unified Arab Command when it was chaired by 'Ali 'Amira. A unified Arab plan then allocated specific arms to the Arab countries. Lebanon was required to have squadrons of planes. Lebanon opted for the Mirage planes. The Unified Arab Command was the main financer. This is why I say that morally, Lebanon cannot dispose of something given to it by the Unified Arab Command. It is true that these planes became the property of Lebanon, but they were given by a Unified Arab Command. This aspect must be observed.

The other thing is that the contracts concluded between the Lebanese state and France prevent Lebanon from disposing of these planes without the agreement of the French Government. In other words, the state cannot sell these planes as it wants. Furthermore, Lebanon is at this particular phase calling for building its army and unified Arab strategy and appealing to all to participate in one battle. How then can we abandon an important weapon that we possess?

[Question] Some who say that the air weapons are not suitable for Lebanon add that if the planes will be kept and the government will not get rid of them, then the modernization of these planes must be undertaken by a national company--Middle East Airlines--which is capable of this modernization or maintenance. Have you any information that the Middle East Airlines company is capable of such work?

[Answer] Before answering this question, I want to discuss another matter connected with air defense affairs. We must discriminate between the air defense based on missile networks and an air force of planes for the Lebanese Army. One does not cancel out the other. The air force plane is a necessary and basic weapon for every army. An army cannot be complete without an air force and without planes. This does not cancel the contemplation of defense networks. I am not announcing a secret if I say that I asked for a report to be prepared for me on the possibility of seeking a network for the defense of Lebanon with all consequences on all levels. It is not sufficient for us to consider the question from a defensive point of view. Several issues must be taken into consideration. This is not the right time to discuss them, but I would like to mention that a missile or a group of missiles were installed in Al-Biqa'. You know how the world reacted and how the fleets moved. We do not accept that anybody should interfere in our affairs. We do not accept that others should interfere with the issue of the missiles which the Syrian brothers installed in Al-Biqa'. Naturally, I do not accept that anybody should interfere. However, it is my duty to study everything before embarking on a step of this kind, particularly because we are sincere and serious in our demand to our brothers to the anticipated Arab summit and to all other summits and meetings for a unified Arab strategy and a unified Arab plan. We will do what we can and the planes we have might be a nucleus to be put at the disposal of a joint command. I do not know whether this will happen, but this is what we look forward to and this is how we think.

LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES FOR TALKS

Arrival Statements

JN091137 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 Aug 81

[Text] Damascus--Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan arrived at 1030 today on a visit to Syria for talks with officials on the situation in the Lebanese arena, current developments and issues of mutual interest.

Al-Wazzan was welcomed at the shooting club by Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm; 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; and Minister of State Anwar Hammadah.

In a statement to the SANA correspondent, Al-Wazzan said: We have come to fraternal Syria bearing all the Lebanese greetings for our brother Syrians and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, whom we have known to be a great protector of all Arab values and militant principles in this fateful state of our Arab nation.

Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm told the press: You have always known that we in Syria and in Lebanon, as Brother Shafiq al-Wazzan has said, are one people. Therefore, it is very natural that we meet to solve existing problems in our two countries.

Dr al-Kasm concluded: We hope that our talks with Brother al-Wazzan will be for the good of Lebanon, Syria and for all the Arabs.

Meets With Al-Asad

JN091912 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Aug 81

[Text] At 1630 today President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm and by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Talks during the meeting centered on the efforts being exerted to promote the march of national reconciliation is the best means of solving Lebanon's problems and of enabling Lebanon to recover its health and carry out its pan-Arab role. President Hafiz al-Asad reiterated Syria's support for these efforts. The Lebanese premier expressed his appreciation for the brotherly assistance given to Lebanon by Syria.

The meeting also dealt with the latest developments in Lebanon and the Arab region and the dangers threatening Lebanon and the entire Arab nation as a result of the hostile Israeli designs and the Israeli ambitions in Arab territories. Emphasis was laid on the promotion of fraternal cooperation between Syria and Lebanon.

Predeparture Statements

JN100852 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 10 Aug 81

[Text] Before leaving Damascus for Beirut this evening, Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan expressed satisfaction with his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad and with the perfect and positive attitude of the Syrian brothers on all issues discussed. He also praised the Syrian officials' readiness to back Lebanon's march toward the means that will deliver the Lebanese from their difficulties. Al-Wazzan said: The Syrian officials have shown a readiness to promote a solution that will enable us, the Lebanese and the Syrians together, to face the Zionist threats in Lebanon and the region. On the nature of his talks with Al-Asad, Premier al-Wazzan said: When we visit Syria, we act on the basis of our belief that we and the Syrian people and officials are confronting the same issue in this difficult stage both in Lebanon and in the rest of the region.

Al-Wazzan expressed his pleasure at the warm and brotherly atmosphere of the meetings and said: The Syrian officials, through their love for Lebanon, have shown their readiness to exert all efforts to help Lebanon emerge from its present difficulties. He referred to the difficult circumstances presently facing the region following the Israeli agressions which placed the region in a state of real warfare and said: Lebanon cannot bear the consequences of such a situation. This calls for the holding of an Arab summit.

Al-Wazzan spoke about the issues dealt with during his talks in Damascus and said: The talks were on issues related to the Arab summit, Lebanese security, the Arab followup committee and many issues of concern to both countries.

Asked whether steps were agreed upon concerning the Arab followup committee, Al-Wazzan said: All I can say is that President Hafiz al-Asad, Dr al-Kasm and Mr Khaddam have expressed support for any step that can help Lebanon solve its problems and lift the harm and oppression.

Asked about the process of reconciliation scheduled to begin next week, Al-Wazzan said: I do not have any definite ideas to state in this regard. Within our work in the follow-up committee, we have planned certain phases within which we will move. We will start implementing this planning when I return to Lebanon and especially when the Arab ambassadors, with whom and with whose countries we are committed to cooperate, arrive in Lebanon.

Asked whether the possibility of a meeting between His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis had been discussed during the talks, Al-Wazzan replied: In fact, we did not discuss this matter.

Asked whether the Syrian officials had submitted definite proposals in this field, the Lebanese premier said: The Lebanese working paper stresses that relations must be severed with Israel in word and deed. We agree with our Syrian brothers on this and are working to have this manifested in clear practice. Al-Wazzan stressed that there could be no flexibility on this matter. He added: From this premise, we believe that we are working with full clarity in this matter, which cannot permit any ambiguity or leniency.

Asked whether an Arab summit will be held soon, Al-Wazzan said: This matter has been discussed. Our Syrian brothers have shown initial approval for convening such a summit, which must be preceded, for our part and that of our Arab brothers, by the necessary preparations to ensure that this summit, if it is held, has positive results. We in Lebanon have begun the necessary contacts with brother Arabs so that we may be able to define all demands and methods and to set the date and venue of this summit.

On whether there has been agreement between Syria and Lebanon concerning southern Lebanon and the latest Zionist agressions, Al-Wazzan said: When we discussed the issue of an Arab summit, southern Lebanon was the core of our discussions, given that this issue is always a subject of discussion for the Lebanese authorities and the Arab followup committee because we insist on imposing Lebanese sovereignty over all Lebanese territory, particularly over the border strip under the control of agent Sa'd Haddad, whom we consider an extension of Israel. Al-Wazzan added: We and our brothers in Syria have given and will continue to give care and importance to southern Lebanon. We shall continue to discuss this matter at all forums, Arab or international, and through our bilateral relations with our Arab brothers.

Asked whether the U.S. project on Lebanon had been discussed, Al-Wazzan said: We did not discuss such a subject. Though we have heard and read much about it, no one has informed us about its contents. We have contacted our embassies to provide us with the necessary information on this subject. He added: We cannot, as Lebanese authorities or through our bilateral relations with the Arabs, proceed with discussing this subject before it has been officially defined for us.

Asked about demands of some Lebanese leaders concerning the deployment of support missiles on the Lebanese coast and whether this subject had been discussed, Al-Wazzan said: In fact, we did not touch on this topic. I stated in a television interview 2 days ago that the subject of missiles is under discussion by the Lebanese authorities. I reveal no secret if I say that I have asked for a report on providing an air defense system for Lebanon. I am waiting for this report to define our stand on this subject.

Concluding his remarks the Lebanese Prime Minister extended thanks to President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian Government for the decision to allow Lebanese trucks to resume work unaffected by the previous procedures. He said that this decision is a swift response to a Lebanese request. Al-Wazzan left Damascus at 2000 last night. He was seen off at the shooting club by Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm and senior Foreign Ministry officials.

Prime minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm made several remarks prior to Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan's departure from Damascus. Asked about U.S. proposals concerning Lebanon, he said: So long as we are not informed of these proposals, as stated by Prime Minister al-Wazzan, we will not be able to talk about plans we read only in newspapers without knowing their dimensions and details. Asked about the Saudi crown prince's eight-point proposal concerning the area, Dr al-Kasm said: I believe that all the Arabs agree on these topics and that the question of Palestine is quite clear. He asserted that the Palestinian issue can only by solved by the Palestinians returning to their land and by their self-determination.

Asked if the Lebanese can expect good results after al-Wazzan's visit to Syria, Dr al-Kasm said: Prime Minister al-Wazzan's visits always augur well. As his excellency said, we have one concept with regard to all problems. We studied the means and not the objectives. As Prime Minister al-Wazzan said, we must be firm, leaving no ambiguity in a principled stand: Relations and dealing with Israel. A statement in writing is not enough; both word and deed are necessary. This should represent the will of those who started the cooperation in order to end this cooperation forever. Asked how he would be assured that this cooperation will be cut off, he said that this should be proved by others. He asked: I cannot understand how we can say that we will end cooperation and then justify the Israeli aggression against Lebanon. How can we be Lebanese and justify the Israeli agression against the Lebanese people, and then say that we will end this cooperation? Dr al-Kasm asserted that the ways to end this cooperation are very clear. This was stated by Prime Minister al-Wazzan and by us: By word and deed and by a national Lebanese stand against the Zionist entity. To a question on proceeding with the accord process before the convening of the Arab followup committee, Dr al-Kasm said that the question of accord is a matter that concerns the Lebanese sides and that Syria is only contributing but it can never take the place of the Lebanese. Syria's role was to establish security and to give a chance to the Lebanese sides to conduct a dialogue and attain accord. This role is the service of Lebanon. We are confident that not one single Lebanese side would accept another side cooperating with Israel. Other matters remain secondary.

Asked whether there is a need to follow up the decision made during the visit, al-Kasm said: This depends on circumstances and on the development of these circumstances. We always welcome every visit and I believe that 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam will be a member of the Arab followup committee in early September as scheduled.

COALITION, ALIGNMENT REJECT SAUDI PEACE PLAN

Ministers React

TA081843 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1835 GMT 8 Aug 81

[Text] Cabinet ministers see the Saudi program for peace in the Middle East as a turning point which may expand the Camp David accords. It is for the first time, so our political correspondent has learned from the ministers, that the Saudis, in a public statement, express readiness to recognize Israel. The conditions presented by Saudi Arabia are indeed very extreme and are not at all acceptable to Israel, but the very readiness to recognize Israel should be viewed as a basic change in Saudi Arabia's position. Our political correspondent, Elimelekh Ram reports:

[Begin videotape] Political circles in Jerusalem this evening have no doubt that the Saudi plan for Middle East peace is a result of an Eygptian-Saudi coordination following the talks As-Sadat held in Washington last week. The central question asked in Jerusalem today is: Will As-Sadat succeed in leading Saudi Arabia to support of the Camp David agreements and the peace process or will Saudi Arabia manage to lead As-Sadat to a deviation from the agreements.

Generally, it is assessed here that As-Sadat can be very pleased with the talks he conducted in Washington with President Reagan and Secretary of State Haig. The Jerusalem circles refrain from entering detailed assessments since the information they possess so far stems from reports in the communications media. As for the Egyptian president's statements regarding the PLO's participation in the autonomy negotiations, Israel repeats its clarifcation that it will not hold any negotiations with this organization. This position is acceptable also to the United States and has been reinforced by Secretary of State Haig's remarks. We were told that even if the PLO recognizes the UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 Israel does not undertake today to recognize it as a partner to the negotiations. [end videotape]

Foreign Ministry Spokesman

TA082007 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 8 Aug 81

[Text] The Israeli Foreign Ministry's spokesman said that according to media reports on the Saudi peace plan, Israel's reaction is negative. Spokesman Herzl 'Inbar told the AP correspondent that Israel at the moment does not have a precise version of the Saudi proposal and his reaction is based only on the details learned from world news media. He emphasized that Israel will wait for further details and only then will an official reaction be released.

Coalition, Opposition Leaders

TA090941 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 9 Aug 81 pp 1, 7

[Report by Arye Tzimuqi and Shlomor Naqdimon]

[Excerpts] This morning Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir rejected the Saudi peace plan. The minister told YEDI'OT AHARONOT Correspondent Shlomo Naqdimon: "There is nothing new in the plan. What it implies as it were--a tone of a Saudi recognition of Israel--is not new. The plan, in all its details, is dangerous for Israel. We rejected it in the past and we are rejecting it now too."

The YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondent has learned that the assessment in Jerusalem is that the Saudi peace plan was released following frequent contacts held lately between the Saudis and the Egyptians.

It is not yet clear in Jerusalem whether the Americans were in some way involved in the publication of the Saudi plan. However, it is assumed that the Americans are content with the Saudi tendency to become a factor in the peace process.

It is noted in Jerusalem that this is not the first time that the Saudis have raised the ideas included in their plan. About a year ago Washington POST owner Katherine Graham arrived in Jerusalem after holding talks in Saudi Arabia. She met with Prime Minister Begin and briefed him on the Saudi readiness to conduct negotiations with Israel provided that Israel agreed to withdraw to the 1967 borders, set up a Palestinian state and give up Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is waiting for further details on the plan although it is already clear the plan will be rejected. Despite Jerusalem's rejection of the Saudi plan, Jerusalem does not ignore the positive note contained in Riyadh's preparedness "to recognize the right of all Middle Eastern countries to live in peace."

Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres also rejected the plan. Mr Peres said this morning: "The plan contains a single new element--the readiness to make peace with Israel. All other elements--such as the return to the 1967 borders, the establishment of a state for the Palestinians, the partitioning of Jerusalem--are old and it is inconceivable that Israel could accept them. In this respect the Saudi plan makes the situation more difficult rather than easier. It is impossible to reach peace without negotiations among the parties, without preconditions. The dictate of preconditions does not promote peace but rather delays it. The Saudis should be aware of what Israel can or cannot accept. Saudi Arabia's conditions are unacceptable."

Former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said: "There is no doubt that the Saudi plan as well as several expressions offensive to Israel which accompany it should be rejected. On the other hand, the very readiness of Saudi Arabia to be publicly involved in the achievement of a solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict is very positive. Hence, the Saudi plan should be categorically rejected but Saudi Arabia should be called upon to hold a dialogue with Israel. It should be demanded that the United States use its influence with Saudi Arabia to achieve the latter's support for the Camp David accords."

Ehrlich Comments

TA100945 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 10 Aug 81

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Simha Ehrlich said that the Saudi peace plan contains some sort of change because this is the first time that Saudi Arabia has mentioned the State of Israel's right to exist. However, the overall plan is unacceptable because it might bring about the annihilation of Israel.

Mr Ehrlich chaired the Cabinet session today during Mr Begin's absence. The cabinet heard a political report from the foreign minister. Mr Shamir again rejected the Saudi initiative. However, the issue was not discussed.

This morning the Cabinet appointed 10 deputy ministers to the various ministries. MK Ben-Tziyon Rubin from TAMI, who will be deputy minister of labor and welfare, was added to the list of deputy ministers this morning.

Arens on Saudi Motives

TA091556 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 9 Aug 81

[Text] We will return to reaction in Israel to the Saudi Arabian peace initiative. The chairman of the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee, Prof Moshe Arens, is on the telephone. Good day.

[Arens] Good day.

[Question] Professor Arens, we have heard that the foreign minister and other political sources in Jerusalem have rejected the Saudi Arabian plan. From the tactical aspect, would it not be wiser to present a positive proposal with the rejection of the plan?

[Answer] Look, the Saudi Arabia announcement, that of Prince Fahd, speaks of the fact that Saudi Arabia is prepared to recognize the right of all countries in the Middle East to exist. The announcement does not even mention Israel and I assume that this was not coincidental. Nor is it coincidental that it came at a time when the Saudis want to receive a positive reply from the U.S. Senate about the supply of AWACS aircraft. Of course we can also recognize the right of existence of all countries in the Middle East, including those in the Arabian peninsula, but no more than that. The proposed basis--the establishment of a Palestinian state, the partition of Jerusalem--these are certainly not the basis for negotiations.

[Question] In your opinion did Egyptian-Saudi coordination, or perhaps U.S.-Saudi coordination precede the publication of this plan?

[Answer] I do not know. I imagine that with all the advisers the Saudis have, they certainly also have advisers from the United States who recommended the advisability of making such a proposal in order to improve the chances of the Senate approving the supply of AWACS.

[Question] In your view is there any place for an initiative from Israel toward Saudi Arabia?

[Answer] I think that the only appropriate initiative at present would be to request--to demand--from the Saudis a halt to their aid to the PLO, which is fighting against the civilian population of Israel.

[Announcer] Professor Moshe Arens, chairman of the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee, thank you very much.

Peres Rejects Clauses

TA091623 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 9 Aug 81

[Text] Here is the Labor Party's reaction to the Saudi Arabia peace initiative: The party's chairman, Shim'on Peres, has rejected the plan out of hand. In Peres' opinion there is, on the one hand, a Saudi Arabian polarization of attitude and, on the other, recognition of the fact of Israel's existence. Our correspondent, Rafi Reshef, brings us some of the remarks by the chairman of the Labor Party:

[Begin recording] The Saudi plan is intended to acquire supporters for the Arab-Palestinian position. It is clear that both Saudi Arabia and Egypt, both of them together, will try to put the Palestinian issue at the center of world and national attention--Arab national attention. The ground is certainly fertile, from their viewpoints, particularly as the matter of Sinai is coming to an end and we, too, are to no small degree responsible for the fact that the Palestinian issue has become the main one. The question is how Israel is reacting to this move, which is a publicity move and is arousing interest in the Palestinian matter. In my view, Israel, in its information campaign, must appear as a country that wants comprehensive peace via direct negotiations without prior conditions, without dictates; and it must be the one that takes the initiative. It is clear that there is a change here in the very fact that Saudi Arabia is prepared to recognize the existence of Israel; but, on the other hand, it has laid down a series of conditions that jeopardize the existence of Israel. Those conditions cannot be acceptable to us nor can they act as a basis for genuine negotiations.

[Question] That is, you regard this plan as a turning point?

[Answer] I regard this plan as a double one: first, regarding Israel and its existence; but second, poliarization in position on the main issues involving the existence of Israel.

[Question] You spoke about a Saudi option even before the election. Does this plan fulfill your expectations?

[Answer] No, under no circumstances, but I expected in advance that a day would come, and it is not far off, when the Saudi Arabians will want a peace program of their own. I thought that we should be the initiators and that Saudi Arabia should be the one to react. Because we waited, the Saudis took the initiative into their hands and gained points in world public opinion. There is no point in our burying our heads in the sand. I thought we should tell the Saudi Arabians, let us sit down and discuss peace in direct negotiations, without prior conditions, and also discuss a solution that can come gradually.

[Question] Do you accept the position of the Government of Israel, rejecting that plan out of hand?

[Answer] I would completely reject the clauses of the plan, certainly, but I would add that we are prepared to sit down with the Saudi Arabians, to discuss peace without any prior conditions. That is, I would add to this a positive side, as well--one by Israel itself. [end recording]

More on Peres Remarks

TA091750 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Aug 81

[From the evening newsreel]

[Text] Even though the parties' bodies have not yet discussed the Saudi peace plan, the leaders of most parties have rejected it, both in the coalition parties as well as in the Labor Party. Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres today told our correspondent on party affairs, Ammon Nadav, that the Arabs are trying to focus the peace talks on the Palestinian problem:

[Begin recording] This is what As-Sadat did in Washington and this is what Fahd did in Saudi Arabia. Clearly there is here coordination in the timing, and this is a battle for world public opinion and for U.S. public opinion. In my opinion, against this Arab strategy one should present the peace issue. Israel's position, therefore, should be: We gladly accept Saudi Arabia's readiness for peace, but its positions are unacceptable to us and cannot serve as a basis for negotiations. However, we are prepared for negotiations unconditionally.

[Question] In your opinion, does this Saudi initiative endanger the Camp David accords?

[Answer] This Saudi initiative is an alternative to Camp David, not support for them. The Camp David accords involve an element of temporariness and gradualism. On the one hand the Saudis are saying that the entire problem should be solved at once. This, of course, endangers the existence of Israel because a Palestinian state in the 1967 borders with a right for all the refugees to return is, in fact, a threat to the existence of Israel.

[Question] As for the domestic sphere here, in your opinion is there a chance that a unified opinion accepted by all the parties will be worked out concerning the Saudi plan?

[Answer] I do not think the Likud honestly and truly aspires to have a unified stance. What Mr Begin desires is that everyone say aye after him. [end recording]

Eban On Saudi Proposal

TA082112 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 8 Aug 81

[Text] Knesset Member Aban Eban said this evening that the Saudi peace plan indicates a mental ferment in the Arab world and necessitates an appropriate response by Israel.

According to Mr Eban, the Camp David agreements should remain as a point of departure for the continuation of the peace process in the region. Mr Eban said it is regrettable that it is now of all times that the Israeli Government has toughened its position on political issues by including in the government policy guidelines which contradict the Camp David accords.

MAPAM Leader

TA091752 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Aug 81

[From the evening newsreel]

[Text] Opinions differing from that of Shim'on Peres were heard today from the ranks of the other Alignment partner: MAPAM Secretary General MK Victor Shem-Tov has suggested that Israel put the Saudis to the test and invite Prince Fahd to meet the prime minister of Israel at once, in Jerusalem, Riyadh or any other place, to continue the negotiations on peace unconditionally.

Victor Shem-Tov desctibed Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's reaction as hasty and devoid of vision.

Editorial Reaction

TA100802 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0440 GMT 10 Aug 81

[From the review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] The main topic in today's papers is the Saudi peace plan. According to HA'ARETZ, the government should reconsider this matter and issue a reply that is compatible with Israel's needs and that permits a substantive examination of the plan. As for its substance, the content of the plan is almost identical to As-Sadat's remarks in the Knesset. Yet, Israel made peace with the bearer of that dangerous plan. Where does the danger lay then? Well, in that it exposes the helplessness of Israel's diplomacy and its embarrassment in the face of the changes occurring in ingrained Arab concepts--be they genuine or imaginary--and the tactical moves reflecting these changes. Israel should not reject Fahd's plan out of hand, relying on the criticism President as-Sadat leveled against it in the United States. Egypt and Saudi Arabia are competing for Washington's grace and for the title "the champion of the Palestinians" in the Arab world. This competition does not concern us directly. As far as Israel's public relations are concerned, it would be wise to expose a Saudi scheme, if indeed there is one.

HATZOFE writes that the peace plan published by the Saudi crown prince contains nothing new. In fact, it repeats declarations made by Arab statesmen who have not desisted from their support for the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judaea and Samaria, including that part of Jerusalem within the walls. Therefore, it should not be regarded as a peace plan but rather as an integral part of the pan-Arab strategy in the war against Israel. Israel's official reaction yesterday rejecting Fahd's plan was appropriate and timely. There is no room for second thoughts on the matter. Any arguments in Israel about this plan would only help the Arabs create a favorable public opinion for the new plan which, deep down, is designed to annihilate Israel. At the same time, this would seriously affect Israel's political and information efforts against the new schemers, who are this time cast in the role of Saudi peace-seekers even though they are doing nothing but continuing the anti-Israeli line that opposes the very right of the State of Israel to exist.

'AL HAMISHMAR believes that instead of categorically rejecting the Saudi plan because it is an annihilation plan, it would be better to propose holding talks in any framework that would remove the rigidity of the proposed plan.

Nevertheless, the absolute reticence of Israeli Government circles presumably stems, among other things, from the fact that Saudi Arabia places the solution of the Palestinian problem at the heart of the plan. As known, the newspaper continues, the second edition of the Likud government is far from contemplating real negotiations on solving this problem.

The Jerusalem POST writes: if the king or the crown prince are naked, why not let them go on exhibition? Why not entice them to say more, rather than provide them refuge behind Israel's rejection? However, habits are hard to break, the newspaper concludes.

DEFENSE MINISTER SHARON TO VISIT EGYPT 19 AUG

TA091107 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 9 Aug 81

[Text] Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon will visit Egypt in 10 days. The minister's aide, Eli Landau, told our correspondent Me'ir Einstein that Minister Sharon will leave on 19 August for a 3-day visit to Egypt and will meet there with Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and apparently also with President as-Sadat.

CHRISTIAN POSITION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON ATTACKED

TA090526 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Aug 81

[Text] Several terrorists attacked a Christian position west of Marj 'Uyun last night. The terrorists crossed the Litani River and fired RPG's and opened light-weapons fire. At the same time, terrorists in the Beaufort Castle area opened artillery fire at the position. Our correspondent reports that the Christians managed to chase the terrorists beyond the Litani River.

UNIFIL Unaware of Violation

TA080812 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 8 Aug 81

[Text] The UN force in Southern Lebanon claims it is unaware of any recent violation of the cease-fire in the area. The UNIFIL spokesman made this statement to our correspondent Ya'el 'Ezri in the wake of a report broadcast this morning by the Christian radio station, Radio Free Lebanon, that the terrorist organizations and violated the cease-fire last night and opened fire at the Christian enclave held by Sa'd Haddad. The UNIFIL spokesman confirmed that Major Haddad had complained to UNIFIL about the terrorist fire. However, according to him, he has not received any reports of this incident.

'Terrorist' Rearming in Lebanon Reported

TA091630 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 9 Aug 81

[Text] Since the cease-fire was signed in the northern area, the terrorists in Southern Lebanon have brought in artillery, Katyusha launchers and other arms. This was reported to our military correspondent by authoritative sources. At the same time, the supply of weapons--mainly from Libya--to the terrorists is continuing. Our military correspondent, Sha'ul Stav, adds details:

The terrorists have taken advantage of the last 2 weeks for renewed organization in southern Lebanon. This effort is still continuing, according to authoritative military sources. Since 24 July, the date when the cease-fire agreement was signed, the terrorists have brought Katyusha launchers and mortars into the area south of the Az-Zahrani river artillery. In addition to the artillery pieces, the terrorists are transferring ammunition, light arms, mines and other fighting equipment to the south. Emphasis has also been put on fleshing-out the terrorists' antiaircraft system in the south, which includes antiaircraft artillery and shoulder-fired antiaircraft missiles.

Beyond being equipped with fighting weapons, the terrorists are organizing their ranks, taking advantage of the time to improve positions and fortifications. The bridges that spanned the Litani and Az-Zahrani Rivers are still out but, as we have heard, the terrorists have prepared earth banks along the rivers [as heard] and they are being used as crossing points for vehicles. It has also been reported that the Lebanese Government is showing interest in buying light bridges from England, bridges which will then be moved to southern Lebanon to replace those destroyed. Beyond the organizing in the south, the continuous supply of weapons and equipment to the terrorists is continuing--mainly from Libya and, recently, as far as can be seen, also from Saudi Arabia.

PALESTINIAN GROUP PLACES BOMBS AT EMBASSIES

TA100620 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 10 Aug 81

[Text] Two time bombs exploded outside the building of the Israeli diplomatic delegation in Athens last night. The blast caused slight damage to the front door and a car parked outside, but there were no casualties reported. A bomb was also thrown at the Israeli Embassy in Vienna shortly after midnight. One man in a house neighboring the embassy was injured and windows were shattered throughout the area.

Meanwhile, an unknown Palestinian terrorist group claimed responsibility for yesterday's bombing of the Rome office of El Al airlines in which one man was wounded. The group, which calls itself the 15th of May Arab Organization for the Liberation of Palestine, issued statements to papers in Beirut saying the bombing was in retaliation for attempts to annihilate the Palestinian and Arab people.

F-16'S NOT GROUNDED FOR COMPUTER PROBLEM

TA081708 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Aug 81

[Text] Israel has not grounded any F-16's. Israel has received information from the United States about the fault in the plane's computer and the IDF is examining all the aircraft. Our correspondent, Shalom Oren, has learned this from military sources. Earlier, the spokesman of the U.S. Air Force announced that due to a fault in the computer all the aircraft in the United States as well as in all the countries that purchased the plane, including Israel, have been grounded.

BRIEFS

FOREIGN DEBTS--At the end of February 1981 Israel's foreign-currency debts totaled $17.111 billion. This means an increase of $1.304 billion in a period of 12 months and amounts to a 3-percent increase. About 87 percent of the total Israeli debt is in dollars. Of the total Israeli debts, 73.5 percent are long-range ones. [Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 9 Aug 81 p, TA]

HASHISH SEIZURE--The Gaza District Police managed to seize 733 soles of hashish weighing 173 kg in a week-long operation that ended on 9 August. The hashish arrived by sea, apparently from Lebanon. Khan Yunus and Rafah fishermen are suspected of having brought in the drug. The police believe that this is one of the largest seizures of hashish in Israel in the last few years. [Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1430 GMT 9 Aug 81 TA]

ALGERIA

FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS ALGERIA 8-9 AUG

Bendjedid Reception

LD082306 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Apr 81

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the FLN Party, this afternoon at the presidential headquarters received Mr Claude Cheysson, French minister of foreign affairs and sepcial envoy of French President Francois Mitterrand to President Chadli Bendjedid. The meeting was attended by Brother Mohamed Hadj Yala, member of the Political Bureau and minister of finance, the president of the Algerian-French Friendship Society and the ambassadors of Algeria and France.

After the meeting Mr Claude Cheysson answered a question concerning the topics raised at the meeting. He said that he intends to hold a press conference tomorrow where he will talk in detail about the results of his visit to Algeria.

He expressed his own pleasure and the satisfaction of President Francois Mitterrand and the French Government with this meeting. He explained that the French Government expects a great deal from this first contact between Algeria and Socialist France. He pointed out that he wanted to visit Algeria (?earlier but he delayed his visit) because of the accident of the Algerian foreign minister. I wanted to meet him here but I visited him in Paris before coming to Algiers. He explained on the other hand that President Chadli Bendjedid had a long meeting with him and this is evidence of the great important France attaches to its relations with Algeria and Algerians, headed by President Chadli Bendjedid. We also appreciate these relations, particularly as we are two Mediterranean states. We have common interests in the same area and in Africa, including Europe's relations with the Arab world, thus the joint desire to establish peace in the area and (?wich progress) for the newly developing states.

Mr Cheysson arrived in Algiers today on a 24-hour visit. The French foreign minister was welcomed by Brother Hadj Yala on arrival at Houari Boumediene International Airport. Cheysson made a statement at the beginning of which he noted that he held talks with Brother Mohamed Ben Yahia, member of the Political Bureau and foreign affairs minister, who is receiving medical treatment in France at the moment. He explained that these talks dealt in particular with issues of interest to the two countries.

After declaring that his visit is considered the first of its kind by a member of the French Government since the election of Mr Francois Mitterrand as president of the French Republic, he added that the present French Government, which is backed, as is known, by a Socialist majority, feels that it is close to Algeria--particularly in regard to relations between the two countries and the stands taken toward the various issues, whether concerning relations between the North and the South or joining a new international system which not only deals with the economy but also with developments expected in the areas of interest to the two countries, both in the Mediterranean and the Arab world and Africa.

Mr Claude Cheysson added that he will discuss with Algerian officials bilateral relations (?at regional or international level) which must be taken into consideration.

The French minister of foreign affairs concluded his atatement by noting that the talks he will be holding in Algiers are the first in a series of talks his colleagues in the French Government will hold with the Algerian officials during the coming weeks and months, especially during the Algiers international fair.

Predeparture Comments

LD091356 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Aug 81

[Text] The French foreign affairs minister, Claude Cheysson, a short while ago left Houari Boumediene International Airport after a 24-hour visit to our country. He was seen off by Brother Boualem Bessaih, member of the Central Committee and minister of information and culture, and brother Salih Jambri, secretary general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in addition to Algerian Ambassador to France Mohamed Sahnun and senior officials of the Foreign Ministry.

The French minister, before this departure, held a press conference at the VIP lounge, which was attended by the national and international press. This conference was the last item of the program of Mr Cheysson's visit to our country. In the beginning he expressed happiness at the reception accorded him and the meeting with the president and secretary general of the FLN Party, Brother Chaldi Benjedid. Mr Cheysson explained that he exchanged views with the president on all bilateral, regional and international issues. He said what indeed draws attention is that Algeria, like France, believes in the special relations between them and the nature of these relations, because, so he said, Algeria and France have many similar and common elements. In addition to belonging to the Mediterranean basin, they have similar expectations and cultural factors to the extent that [words indistinct] in assessing and treating problems is close and the views are similar. The French minister went on to say: All that we talked about and what we expect shall be translated into the summit meeting which will soon bring together the presidents of Algeria and France.

Answering a question on Algerian migrants in France, the minister said that socialist France recognizes the contribution that they continue to make to the French economy and France in general. He went on to say: We do not accept any evasion of this esteem and good impression. We also do not accept any attempt at discrimination. The Algerians in France, like the ones here, we respect. We defend them and preserve their rights. We help them in staying there as well as assisting them on their return. The proof is France's undertaking to provide financial assistance to migrants who return to their country, Algeria.

On the dispute over the importation of Algerian gas by French companies, Mr Cheysson said that this conflict could not at all disturb relations between our countries. It is just another dispute like others with any other state such as Britain and Spain, for instance. Finally, it is an economic issue on which it is natural and logical for such a dispute to arise. However we shall work relentlessly to solve those problems and eliminate those obstacles before the summit conference between the presidents of the two countries.

On the North-South dialogue, the French minister said it should be revived and developed. The starting point for this dialogue, he said, should be recognition of the South, the South of today and tomorrow, because developing countries, he added, had the same rights as the North: the right to participate in the creation of its order and relations. Algeria, as a developing country, and France, as an industrialized country, have the same desire: the desire to give impetus and develop this dialogue in order to establish a new international economic order.

LIBYA

PALESTINIAN LEADER ARRIVES, MAKES STATEMENT 7 AUG

LD081008 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 8 Aug 81

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Aug (JANA)--Gasir 'Abd Rabbuh, assistant secretary of the Palestine Liberation Front, last night arrived in Tripoli for a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

He made a statement to a JANA correspondent in which he said that his visit would deal with the grave situation through which the Arab region is passing, especially after the Zionist aggression against Lebanon, backed by American imperialism.

He explained that the Zionist enemy was seeking to wage a new aggression to occupy Lebanon after its barbaric attacks against Beirut and southern Lebanon and before the steadfastness of the Palestinian and Lebanese resistance, which relied upon the support of the Arab nation and progressive national forces, especially the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

He stressed the need for solidarity with the people of the Jamahariyah in their confrontation with American imperialist threats. He said that all the Arab masses firmly stand by the side of the Libyan Arab people in their continuous struggle against the enemies of freedom and who are carrying out their pan-Arab duty in foiling all imperialist, Zionist and reactionary plots.

In his statement he denounced the criminal terrorist plan prepared by the American administration to assassinate the leader of the revolution through its agents such as the rulers of Egypt and Sudan. He stressed that the revolutionary forces in the Arab homeland will firmly and resolutely stand [together] to destroy all American terrorist plans.

TUNISIAN CHARGE WARNED ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

LD091956 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1845 GMT 9 Aug 81

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Aug (JANA)--The Tunisian charge d'affaires was summoned this morning to the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and was told that large numbers of Tunisian citizens have recently been observed infiltrating Libyan Arab territory in a noticeable way, something which might compel the people's authorities in the Jamahiriyah to collate these numbers to study the possibility of taking advantage of the skilled elements and of repatriating the surplus number via the normal channels in accordance with the legal measures governing resident status, which have been in operation to date between the two fraternal countries.

Out of a desire to maintain fraternal relations and good-neighbor relations, and in order to avoid any misunderstanding of these ordinary measures, the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison urged upon (?the Tunisian charge d'affaires) the need to inform his government of the Jamahiriyah's readiness to study any proposal which might contribute toward resolving the problems of infiltration, (?including) abolishing entry visas [as received] (?in the manner which would ensure the freedom of movement of the citizens between the two countries.

MOROCCO

BOUCETTA STATEMENT ON CONFRONTATION WITH ISRAEL

LD081050 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0820 GMT 8 Aug 81

[Text] Riyadh, 8 Aug (SPA)--M'hamed Boucetta, Moroccan minister of state for foreign affairs, has stressed the complete readiness of Morocco's Army and people together with the rest of the Arab countries to militarily confront the Israeli enemy.

In a statement published in today's AL-JAZIRAH, he said that the Moroccan Army is now prepared for this confrontation after Israeli arrogance has reached a point aimed at humiliating and degrading Arab dignity. He added that now it has become clear that Israel's concern is not just with consolidating its occupation of the territory it occupies but is connected with the dignity of the whole Arab existence, beginning with the Israeli occupation of holy Jerusalem and the continuing daily Israeli rampaging in southern Lebanon without any concern [words indistinct].

Boucetta mentioned that his country had submitted military suggestions to the Joint Arab Defense Council held recently in Tunis connected with what the Arab military stand to confront the Zionist enemy should be. The Moroccan minister stressed the need for a comprehensive Arab confrontation of Israel from all angles and with all political, economic and military means.

Boucetta called on the Arab nation to cooperate and coalesce to be able to comprehensively confront Israel and the international forces supporting it in order that the Arab posture appear as one with one reaction in the sphere of international public opinion. He expressed his regret about the apparently dispersed Arab effort, a matter which tempts the Israeli enemy to continue its aggressions.

The Moroccan minister welcomed the convening of an Arab summit conference to discuss the present Arab conditions and to look into Arab ability to mount a comprehensive confrontation with the Zionist enemy.

FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN MOROCCO 9 AUG

LD091701 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1555 GMT 9 Aug 81

[Text] Rabat, 9 Aug (MAP)--The French minister of foreign affairs, Claude Cheysson, arrived in Rabat from Algeria on an official visit to Morocco which will last 2 days. He will hold talks with a number of Moroccan officials including King Hasan II.

In a statement to the press at the airport, Cheysson expressed his extreme pleasure at the friendly reception about which he said that he was not surprised, considering the strong relations between Morocco and France.

He pointed out that his visit to Morocco was considered the first visit made by a member of the French Government since the election of President Francois Mitterrand and the Socialist Party's assumption of power. Cheysson added that this visit which has come shortly after President Mitterrand's election makes the French policy in its relations with Morocco clear.

The French foreign affairs minister stressed that this (?continuation) found its roots in history and in the course of events. Cheysson explained that in addition to personal relations, France and Morocco were historically, geographically, economically and culturally linked.

The French minister added that he was greatly honored to be received by His Majesty King Hasan II. He will also meet with a number of officials of his majesty's government. He pointed to the welcome accorded by His Majesty King Hassan II to the secretary general of the Elysee Palace who is regarded as one of the closest aides to the French president.

Remarks on Sahara Issue

LD092359 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Aug 81

[Excerpts] French Minister of Foreign Affairs Claude Cheysson, who arrived in Morocco today on an official visit, has begun his contacts with the officials of his majesty's government. This evening he had a meeting with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation M'hamed Boucetta. They discussed the various aspects of relations between the two countries. The meeting was attended by the secretary of state for cooperation, Abdelhaq at-Tazi; the Moroccan ambassador to France, Dr Yusuf Bilabbas; the French ambassador to Morocco, Jacques Morizet; and the deputy director of the North African and Middle East desk at the French Foreign Ministry, Colin de Verdierre.

When Mr Claude Cheysson arrived in Rabat, where he was welcomed by M'hamed Boucetta, he made a statement at Rabat-Sala Airport.

The French minister of external relations explained that he will underline his country's desire to continue the relations of cooperation with Morocco in the talks he will have with his majesty the king and officials in the Moroccan Government.

When Mr Claude Cheysson was asked if the reception of the Polisario mercenaries at the French Foreign Ministry constituted a change in French policy, he affirmed categorically that France's policy has undergone no change. He said that the continuity of the French policy covers all subjects without exception. He pointed out that the speech of his majesty made before the African leaders in Nairobi and the decision which was unanimously approved by the OAU summit formed a development in regard to the Sahara issue which he described as very difficult. In the name of the French Government, I announce from the first moment that we have praised the courage and the foresight of His Majesty King Hasan II, said Claude Cheysson. He added that his country wished to contribute to finding a solution to the issue if the sides concerned suggested this. He affirmed that France presently maintains full neutrality because it believes that any initiative from a country foreign to the area might lead to (?more) complications.

About the Middle East question, the French minister of external relations announced that he will keep his first impressions on this matter for the Moroccan officials. M'hamed Boucetta is giving a dinner banquet in honor of the French minister of foreign affairs.

CANADA'S TRUDEAU MAKES PREDEPARTURE STATEMENT

LD071538 Rabat MAP in English 1252 GMT 7 Aug 81

[Text] Rabat, 7 Aug (MAP)--Mr Pierre-Elliott Trudeau, Canadian premier, left here Thursday after a one-day official visit and a week-long private stay in Morocco.

Before leaving, Mr Trudeau made a declaration to the press in which he first expressed satisfaction at the results of his talks with Moroccan officials. Mr Trudeau said: "I have held with King Hassan II and Moroccan ministers very useful talks not only on the level of bilateral relations but also on international questions."

Talking about bilateral relations the Canadian premier stressed the fact that Morocco was the third partner of Canada in the field of trade and stated that the cooperation projects examined with his Moroccan counterpart, Mr Maati Bouabid, and the Moroccan minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation, Mr M'hamed Boucetta, would help intensify this cooperation through the near constitution of a joint Moroccan-Canadian commission scheduled to meet by the end of this year.

Mr Trudeau said he was heading for Kenya where he would participate in the United Nations conference on renewable energies whose works would open next Monday in Nairobi, adding, "We grant major interest to our relations with Kenya and Tanzania, and the heads of state of these African countries follow, with keen interest, the problem of the Western Sahara--a problem I have discussed with Moroccan officials. So I will have the opportunity to discuss this problem with these heads of state."

On the other hand, Mr Trudeau said that he had examined with King Hassan II of Morocco cultural exchanges and that these exchanges are to be intensified especially in the field of education.

Mr Trudeau finally talked about the Ottawa summit recently held in Canada and recalled that the summit he had chaired was (?called) to economic problems but political issues were also evoked because of the importance of the meeting of the heads of state of the seven industrialized countries.